

EUGENE WEEKLY

RESOLUTION
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Bravo: guide to
local performing arts

Mary O'Brien
Natural Resistance

Tom Hanks
Charlie Wilson's War



PHOTOS BY ANTON GRIESBACH

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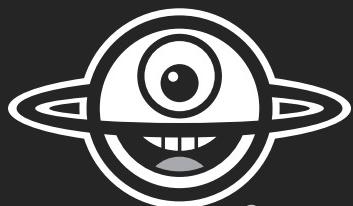
Rafting wild Tibet and other extremes, p. 12



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Legacy of Ideas

Our unavoidable influence on the future

Last night I watched the documentary *Jesus Camp*. It's about an evangelical Christian children's camp at Devil's Lake, N.D. The children, ages 6 to about 10, are being taught to "Take back America for Christ." They hammer ceramic cups representing government that has banned school prayer. They place red strips printed with "LIFE" over their mouths to oppose abortion. They are urged to join the Army of God, opposing, among other forces, Muslim militarists and the warlock Harry Potter. They cry a lot during the camp gatherings, caught up in rock music moments and loud voices reminding them of their fuzzy little sins that will grow larger over time if they aren't vigilant; and about God wanting them to be his prophets.

Three children in particular are featured. Tory loves to dance to Christian heavy metal because, as she explains, it is for God, not flesh, though, she admits, she sometimes does make the fleshly mistake. Pony-tailed Levi is quite proud of his oratory skills, though, he hastens to add, it is only God speaking *through* him. He visits Ted Haggard, then pastor of the New Life Church in Colorado Springs, Colo., to receive advice and encouragement for his skills. Rachel boldly approaches adult strangers with a tract and her simultaneously enthusiastic and foreboding message about the availability of salvation through Christ.

Jesus Camp was lent me by my son, Josh, while he, his wife, her mother, and 2-year old Linus were visiting for five days. While Linus was pretending he was a lizard on a rock; tracking grey fox tracks in the snow ("Oh no!," he says breathlessly, "Duck and goose!") as he suddenly remembers the song "The Fox Went out on a Chilly Night"); and listening to a book about Clarence, the beaver who is temporarily lost from his family; the children in Jesus Camp are being told they are not animals. Instead, they are informed, each one of us is a potential prophet for whom God has a plan, even when we're a one-week embryo inside our mother.

One thing adults unavoidably do is influence children. I remember 20 years ago, walking with my husband O'B, and 12- and 14-year-old sons outside an isolated, largely Shiite town, Kargil, in the Himalayas of northern India. The town's streets were, at the time, devoid of women, and posters around town warned that Americans are up to their elbows in the blood of Muslims. O'B's T-shirt had AUS-TRALIA attractively blazoned across the front.

We were returning to Kargil near dusk, when we met a group of five friendly boys, aged perhaps 7 and 8. They asked for pencils, and eagerly practiced their English with us. Eventually one asked us where we were from. O'B said we were from America, at which point their eyes grew wide, they gravely told us they do not like Americans, and scattered.

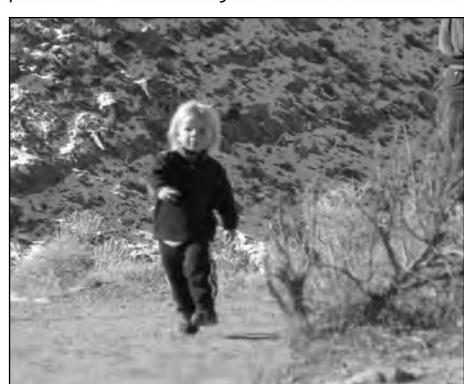
After three more days of traveling farther east on foot and by local buses, we reached the isolated, largely Buddhist town, Leh, in the Himalayas. There, women, men, and children walked together freely, calling out to us their ringing "Jule!" (meaning hello, good-bye, thank you, and/or please). At a moment's quizzical look on our part, any would stop to see if they could answer a question we might have.

Jesus Camp Pastor Becky Fischer is right that what children learn before age 7 will stick with them the rest of their lives. At Jesus Camp; outdoors among our animal relatives; in Shiite Kargil; in Buddhist Leh, our children are watching, imitating, thinking, and feeling. Consciously or not, we pass on our views of the world, life, and responsibility.

Perhaps most crucially, we pass on a sense of how much our children are free to make decisions different from ours. Linus happens to have a particular fondness for tractors. That's not a burning interest of his parents or grandparents. On Christmas Day, however, Linus was given the adult, coffee-table book, *John Deere: A History of the Tractor*.

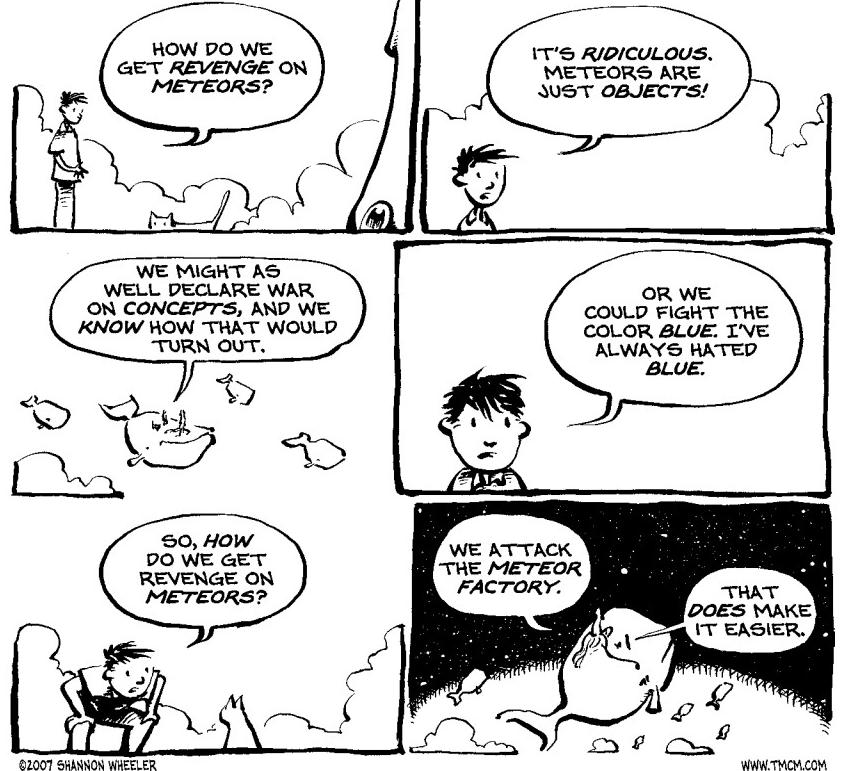
The message? You don't have to be the evolutionary biologist your father is; the science educator your mother is. Maybe you'll drive tractors around, just out of your love of machinery. Maybe you'll be a Christian. Or a Buddhist. Or a Muslim. But hopefully, you will be kind to the world. And happy.

Mary O'Brien of Eugene has worked as a public interest scientist since 1981. She can be reached at mob@efn.org



How to Be Happy (16 OF 8)

by Shannon Wheeler



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE JOB FACTOR

So the Eugene City Council is proposing yet another property tax — this time to provide emergency shelter and affordable housing for the homeless. While I firmly believe that no one should live without decent shelter, and for 18 years have actively participated in and financially contributed to a food for the homeless program, I take issue with the notion that property owners should bear the brunt of solving the homelessness problem.

I am dismayed that the City Council seems to view property owners as their ready reserve. Here's a hypothetical: If, as a property owner, I am taxed for a new City Hall, repairing infrastructure, downtown redevelopment and financing a homeless project, I may become one of the homeless on whom property tax money is spent. In that case, if I score affordable housing, I will once again be eligible to pay property taxes for — guess what?

Has it occurred to any of the "Eugenius" charged with solving the problem that a major cause of homelessness is unemployment? I would gladly support a program of job training or re-training and a task force to help those in need find employment. Better to teach a person to fish than to give them a fish — over and over.

So it goes.

Judy Dellar
Eugene

DISGUISED HATRED

Well, wouldn't you know it, Gustavo Arellano has shown his true colors in loud fashion. I've known his true colors for sometime, now with his latest response to his conjured up question, it should be obvious to all what this guy's all about. He's pro-Mexican, anti-non-Mexican Latino, anti-caucasian, anti-Native American, anti-gringo (white, black and Hispanic). If you're not a Mexican, you're a gringo. This includes Puerto Ricans, which I am one.

Why are you jealous of us, Gustavo? Are you jealous that we already are American citizens and can come and go as we please? Are you jealous of the Cubans, with their special immigration — get to solid land and they can stay in the U.S. status? Why do you hate us so?

A better question would be: Why do Puerto Rican and Cuban rights groups support illegals getting citizenship?

As a former racist myself, the answer is: All of us Latinos hate the white Americanos more than anyone else for the past 200 years of manipulation and oppression. So we stick together, and stick it to them whenever we can. I on the other hand don't hate anyone, I just expose hatred no matter how it's disguised. Mr. Arellano has masterfully disguised his hatred, well, disguised it to the liberal, progressive, hothead, burned-out old hippie community of Eugene.

You guys swallowed his seven course meal of dog shit with a boner in your pants and wanted even more. Maybe now the owners of *EW* will *read* his columns with objectivity and see that this guy's a fraud, an egomaniac and a racist. Read the last week's column for yourself. Don't let his name calling and pathetic humor fool you! The caricature, well if that's stopping you from reading his columns, don't bother complaining, your brain's full of hot air anyway.

Mr. Arellano should save his energy writing his bullshit column and really use his wit and energy in Mexico where people need him more. How about organizing and fomenting revolution in Mexico? I used my wit down there and let the locals in Chiapas pick my brains for about four months on how to organize and how to deal with the corrupt government officials. My radical days during the early 1970s in the South Bronx where I grew up gave me some insight on how to deal with corrupt politicians. I don't know what good all my advice did, hopefully some.

My street "cred" would make Arellano's street "cred" look like he spent his life selling Girl Scout cookies. He would have been eaten alive by the gangs in my old neighborhood. Arellano, you just see me as a gringo, no matter if I'm Puerto Rican, or Costa Rican. I think you're a fraud and it's time for you Eugeneans to see it too. How about you hoedads move to the big city for a couple of years so you can obtain street "cred"? Then maybe it'll be worth listening to you.

Jorge Arroyo
Eugene

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SEX APPEAL

In 1992, those of us who had supported the Jerry Brown for President campaign in Lane County joined together around the banner "Vote for Hillary's Husband" in the general election. Although I am mindful of an anarchist tidbit of wisdom, "Don't vote, it only encourages the bastards," I do vote, selectively. Last time around I supported my old colleague from the national Committee for Non-Violent Action, David McReynolds, running as a Democratic socialist.

But the prospect of Hillary herself, damaged goods to be sure, but no more or less so than any major officeholder, that has a real draw for me. My mother, as a girl, lived in an America that denied women the vote. To go from there to Clinton's lead among Democratic presidential contenders, within my mother's lifetime, gives me hope that the oppressive monoculture of power is amenable to humanizing change.

Women, people of color, immigrant and locally born youth, progressive geezers like me, etc., we are the hope of the future, if there is to be one that avoids the endlessly devastating impacts of global climate change and swelling worldwide populations. So, I may vote for Hillary's husband's wife, or not. I wish Dennis Kucinich had a chance — he has the mind and the heart.

Paul Prensky
Eugene

PISSING AND MOANING

Dear whiny, disgruntled Eugeneans: What will you bitch about this week? "Ask a Mexican!"? Dan Savage? Downtown? Sally Sheklow? Unjust prison sentences for people you've never met? Something new and exciting that you can imagine slights your fragile little sensitive existence in some way? Or will you do what most humans are wont to do when there is no current drama to nibble at — invent one? Here's an idea: Every time you feel angry about some injustice or other, simply go to your sink and turn the tap. Voila! You have running water! Get over yourselves now, please.

I have three children — they are 9, 7 and 10 months. And all of them put together on their worst day cannot generate a fraction of the piss-and-moan wattage you people are putting

out. And I'll stop right here and say that if you find yourself already feeling angry and indignant at this letter, then you are most likely the kind of person I am talking about. Give me a break, children! Most of you preach tolerance (rag it to death, in fact), but are you not the most intolerant creatures on the planet?

Whenever a new idea crops up, you immediately pop it under your microscopes and scour it for flaws, PC discrepancies and ways that it doesn't jibe with your paradigm in general. This being the case, you all must really hate yourselves, for if there's one thing you will simply not put up with, it's a sanctimonious hypocrite, right?

Every week when I open the *Weekly*, I see the same names under the same old whiny inane drivel. Give it a rest already! It should be obvious to you by now that it is not possible to bitch problems away. What happens is you begin to bitch for the sake of bitching and you lose any concept of what you think you are fussing about. Wait. I am bitching right now, aren't I? See how easy it is to realize that you are being a pill?

So, *EW*, let me make it clear that I love you. I find your paper highly entertaining and informative, and I cannot thank you enough for making yourself available to everyone at no cost. I also ask that while you don't let these bell-clangers influence what you print, please never stop printing them. Because probably the most entertaining part of the paper is when I get to read the frothy ravings of a bunch of angry, petty adult dumbasses.

Rodney C. Cimburke Jr.
Cottage Grove

FORESTS AND CLIMATE

Despite claims from NASA, the U.N. and the British Government's Stern Review that logging the world's forests is the second cause of climate change (after fossil fuels) — up to 25 percent of human-caused carbon emissions — we've heard hardly a peep from either the mainstream media or the mainstream environmental movement about the most compelling reason yet presented to protect and preserve our remaining natural forests.

Mainly because of the Bali climate summit in December, we're finally seeing a few blips on the radar screen about the need to stop na-



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Nia: With Heather McCarley Tuesdays 7—8:00 PM, Begins 1/8/08
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Goddess Yoga: With Shannon Reeder Fridays 4:45—6:00 PM, Begins 1/11/08
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02.02
Chris Smither

No Reasonable Options

School district has created a quandary

On Nov. 29, the Eugene 4J superintendent told the Eastside alternative school that there was no longer room for it at Parker and the school would have to move. What happens next will provide a clear demonstration of whether the district really intends to abide by its mission of "equal access and opportunities for all students" or not.

Let's clearly lay out the situation about Eastside.

Segregation. Eastside is a highly segregated alternative school. The district's neighborhood elementary schools have an average of 43 percent of students on free and reduced lunch (FRL – a measure of income), and the remaining alternative schools at 21 percent FRL (2007-08 data). Only 4 percent of Eastside students are on free and reduced lunch.

When it reviewed Eastside, the Alternative School Review Committee noted: "[W]e found a relatively homogeneous student body consisting of classrooms of mostly bright, motivated children with little evidence of diversity... [W]e did observe some instances of minority children and children who appeared to have special needs who were disengaged for the duration of the lessons we observed, with no indication from the teacher of any instructional techniques aimed at engaging those children in the lesson. ... While the school culture at Eastside is welcoming to the students it has, we are not confident that Eastside realizes the intricacies and challenges inherent in providing a truly supportive school culture for diverse populations."

Co-location tensions. After the alternative school review, the board concluded that it was unwise to continue the co-location of alternative schools with neighborhood schools because of the identified tensions between the "have" school and the "have not" schools in one building. Every co-located neighborhood school noted routine denigration of its community by the alternative school community. Rather than fix the inequities, the district apparently intends to make the daily evidence of the inequities less apparent.

In its report to the district, Eastside blamed the building tensions on Parker. "[T]he recommendation that co-location should be ended because of tensions between schools – has given the strong impression that divisive behavior by those opposed to co-location will be rewarded with policy change."

School size. In the "Shaping Eugene's Future" newsletter, the district noted the most effective size for an elementary schools is 300-400 students. Eastside currently has 144 students.

So what are the options for Eastside?

Move into Harris so it can denigrate that school community. Move into Adams to take the place of Hillside in denigrating that school community. Require one of the charter schools to move from Willard. (Eventually the district will need to move Charlemagne because it will never become integrated in the south hills and the Willard building seems to be the most logical.) Revive Hillside from the dead and kick out a neighborhood school to make a place for these two elitist, segregated schools. Try to find room at Dunn, where it would be half the size of the district's stated enrollment standard.

Essentially, there are no reasonable options for Eastside that would not significantly disrupt others, violate the district's expressed guidelines or interfere with future options. In the near future, the district will announce plans for other changes that will disrupt other school communities. Will the district bend over backwards to save this too-small, highly segregated, elitist school, which its own review committee thought was unlikely to be able to change?

Listen to the district's words extolling its dedication to equality and diversity. Or watch its actions. The district's actions will express its true values.

Nancy Willard, M.S., J.D., is known in Eugene as the 1985 Eugene Celebration S.L.U.G. Queen and self-described "chief complainer" about Eugene 4J segregation and inequities. She is also director of the Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use and a mother of three children who attend 4J schools.

WHO YOU GONNA BLAME?

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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*Josh Schlossberg
Eugene*

KEEP TO THE RIGHT

Regarding Christelle Munnely's letter to the editor titled "Give Us Our Lane" (11/21), she only had it part right. What she had right was that it's certainly not acceptable for a driver to say, "Get the fuck out of the road" to a bicyclist, and that where necessary, under certain conditions, the bicyclist has the right to use the full lane.

What she had wrong was that actually, the Oregon rules of the road actually DO require bicyclists — generally — to use "a teeny portion [of the road] all the way to the right." What the relevant Oregon statute (ORS 814.430) actually says is: "A person commits the offense of improper use of lanes by a bicycle if the per-

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

son is operating a bicycle on a roadway at less than the normal speed of traffic using the roadway ... and the person does not ride as close as practicable to the right curb or edge of the roadway."

The exceptions are: 1) passing another vehicle, 2) preparing to execute a left turn, 3) when reasonably necessary to avoid hazardous conditions, 4) riding bikes two abreast in a manner that does not impede "the normal and reasonable movement of traffic."

A sometime bike rider myself, the main reason I share this information is that failing to follow these rules is a ticketable traffic violation. Don't give a cop an excuse to ticket you instead of the rude SUV driver.

Marianne Dugan
Eugene

SEND A MESSAGE

History will damn George Bush and Dick Cheney for treasonous crimes against the U.S. Constitution, state-sanctioned torture and global war crimes.

Unfortunately, democratic leadership will also be damned by history and be held complicit to these very same crimes because of its cowardly refusal to use its constitutional authority to impeach and investigate Bush and Cheney for such crimes. Congressional leaders have taken an oath to defend and protect the constitution of the United States. They did not take an oath to defend George Bush. They did not take an oath to defend the American people from inconvenience should impeachment hearings bring strife. They did not take an oath to protect a cabal of neocon punks and corpo-

rate cronies who have hijacked the machinery of government and the U.S. military to be used for their nefarious and self-enriching imperial projects around the world.

The Democrats' excuse that impeachment is impractical because there is only a year left in Bush's term is an obscenity. If a corporate CEO is alleged to have committed murder and bilked millions from his company, would a prosecutor withhold charges if the CEO only had a few months left at the job and it might cause strife with the company?

Impeachment would send a message to future leaders that there is accountability for criminality. It would also show our citizenry and the world that our country has returned from the brink of lawless insanity. What could be a more important task?

Gerry Rempel
Eugene

MAN WITH A PLAN

So many Americans are desperate for a change in leadership, but in the frenzy of the upcoming presidential elections the issues are being bypassed by multi-million-dollar campaigns. We hear only rhetoric from those candidates who can buy the most media time, thus successfully imprinting themselves on the American psyche. But after all the hype, what we really want is a candidate who best represents our shared vision for our country.

I've decided to approach the elections the way I approach any major purchase. Using a car for example, I would not buy a car based on appearance or the biggest price tag or media blitzes, and I would definitely not buy from a

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The BLM's comment period deadline is January 11, 2008

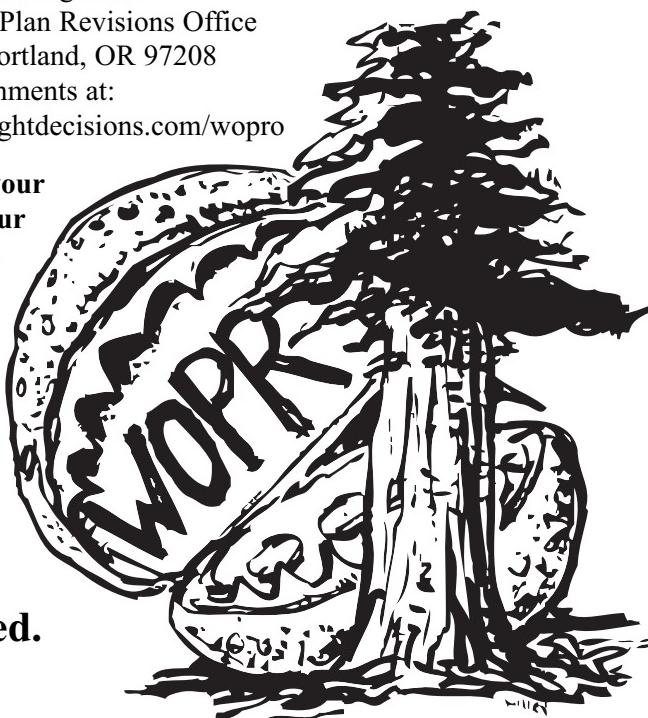
Mail your comment letters to:

Bureau of Land Management
Western Oregon Plan Revisions Office
P.O. Box 2965 Portland, OR 97208

Or post your comments at:
<http://www.daylightdecisions.com/wopr>

Send copies of your comments to your elected officials.

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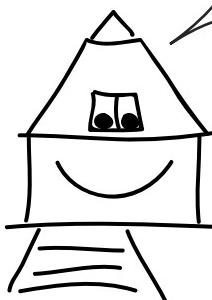
- Wet Veggie Burrito
- Wet Tofu Burrito
- Wet Bean & Cheese Burrito
- Cheese Enchilada
- Cheese Enchilada Plate
- Chile Relleno Wet Burrito
- Chile Relleno
- Chile Relleno Burrito

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The City of Eugene's **Neighborhood Matching Grants** program is accepting proposals for community improvement projects such as parks, playgrounds, gardens or events. Your neighbors and sponsors provide half of the cash/materials/labor and the City will match it.

Pre-review deadline for all applicants is **February 25, 2008**. Grant packets are now available at www.eugene-or.gov/matching grants, at City libraries, community centers, and the Atrium Building at 99 W. 10th Ave.

Want to learn more? Contact Michael Kinnison, City Neighborhood Services, at 682-5009 with additional questions.



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LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR

drawing as therapy

by harvey dickson



toast2850@yahoo.com

dealership that received most of its funding from an auto repair shop. I would look for a car that has consistent quality, safety and dependability, that will save money; one designed for the driver. I would buy it from a dealership funded by the very drivers it hopes to sell to.

Using this common logic, my candidate is Dennis Kucinich. He has a consistent voting record on issues of peace, justice, environmental protection and human rights. He is funded

by the people, not big corporations, and he has a plan for universal, single-payer, not-for-profit healthcare, a plan to get us out of Iraq immediately and keep us out of Iran, a plan for education, a plan for the economy, a plan for the environment moving away from dependence on foreign oil, a plan for immigration and, most importantly — a plan to restore the Constitution and the values it puts forth to the American people. Dennis Kucinich may not be

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Connect
Listen
Be
More**



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

flashy or receive any contributions from corporate giants (which means he has no strings attached to the oil, pharmaceutical or defense industries), but he does represent our hopes and dreams, and he has viable plans to achieve them.

On an Internet poll (www.dehp.net/candidate/index.php) of 197,000-plus people that asks solely about the issues and their importance, Dennis Kucinich consistently ranks number ONE with more than 85 percent of respondents. Try it, and you may be surprised to learn that you, too are most in alignment with candidate Kucinich.

Gail Rhamy
Eugene

A DELICATE BALANCE

The Earth is the only planet in the universe that has running water, air to breathe and multiple life forms and is just the right distance from an energy source the sun. It is a delicate balance. It is the only place that we know like this. For the last 200 years, humans have attempted to control nature. This has resulted in high standard of living for many of us. It also has resulted in polluted water, air and agricultural systems. Many species have gone extinct. We are out of balance with nature and on a destructive path. We humans have a choice to become extinct or not.

The latest BLM plan to cut the rest of the "old growth" and to cut further down to streams has been criticized by scientific peer review, the EPA and the Federal Fish & Game. These lands belong to the people, not the corporations. Their health helps to insure our health.

I plead with everyone: Please call your federal representatives and senators. Tell them they need to insist that the BLM must produce a "new" plan to help renew the health of our region, our planet and our species.

Mary Jo Davis
Cottage Grove

MITT FOR BRAINS

It appears that the Republican presidential nomination race has focused around Mike Huckabee, Mitt Romney and Fred Thompson. Mike is in Iowa telling the voters that they don't know Mitt. Mike is a religious minister. He is convinced that Romney has Mitt for brains and is a Mittfaced imitation of a conservative. Romney is trying to persuade voters that if they let him sling some Mitt, the religious right will be shouting: Holy Mitt! Brother Fred is walking around the precincts looking like two pounds of Mitt in a one pound box. He is telling the right wing faithful that a vote for Romney will put the GOP up Mitt creek without a paddle. The latest polls shows Huckabee surging in favor with the Republicans while losing the presidency to any breathing, hot Mitt Democrat.

Gerry Merritt
Eugene

LETTERS POLICY: We welcome letters on all topics and will print as many as space allows, with priority given to timely local issues. Please limit length to 250 words, keep submissions to once a month and include your address and phone number for our files. Email to editor@eugeneweekly.com (please put "letters" in the subject line), fax to 484-4044 or mail to 1251 Lincoln, Eugene 97401.

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MINIMUM WAGE GETS A BOOST

Oregon's minimum wage increased from \$7.80 to \$7.95 per hour on Jan. 1, reflecting the rise of the cost of living as defined by the Consumer Price Index. The change is required under Ballot Measure 25, approved by voters in 2002.

The boost of 15 cents an hour will help low-wage earners keep pace with inflation, but many at the bottom rung of the pay scale will remain mired in poverty, according to the Oregon Center for Public Policy (OCPP).

A full-time minimum wage worker will get a raise of \$312 a year and a total annual income of \$16,536, still below the \$17,170 that constitutes the 2007 federal poverty line for a family of three.

"Adjustments to the minimum wage are essential for keeping the lowest-paid workers from falling further behind, but they are not a ticket out of poverty for most families depending only on a minimum wage job," said Michael Leachman, policy analyst for the OCPP, this week.

Oregon now has the nation's third-highest minimum wage, behind Washington (\$8.07), California (\$8) and Massachusetts (\$8). The national minimum wage of \$5.85 per hour is scheduled to increase to \$6.55 per hour on July 24, 2008.

Critics of Measure 25 predicted Oregon's relatively high minimum wage would hurt job growth, but OCPP says Oregon's non-farm payroll employment growth was 12th fastest in the nation from 2002 to 2007.

Critics representing the Oregon Restaurant Association predicted that "nearly 30,000 more Oregonians could lose their jobs" as a result of Measure 25, but OCPP reports employment in the restaurant industry has grown 19 percent, more than twice as fast as the overall non-farm payroll statewide. And the Oregon Employment Department recently forecast that from 2006 to 2016 the restaurant industry will add more jobs than any other industry in the state.

OPERATION BACKFIRE SENTENCINGS

The sentencing date has been pushed back to Feb. 12 for Jacob Ferguson who pled guilty in October to one count of arson and one count of attempted arson in the Operation Backfire environmental arson cases.

Ferguson was actually involved in 14 arsons or attempted arsons, according to court documents. However, he took a plea deal in exchange for cooperation with the FBI that involved wearing a body wire during conversations with others accused of involvement with the arsons.

Ferguson's original sentencing date was set for Jan. 10 in U.S. District Court but after Jeff "Free" Luers was given a court date of Jan. 8 in Lane County Circuit Court for his resentencing, the Ferguson date was changed.

The cases have been linked in the past. The night before Luers' 2001 trial for the arson of several SUVs at the Romania Chevrolet Truck Center, eco-aronists (later convicted in the Operation Backfire case) set fire to 35 SUVs at the same location. They issued a communiqué referencing the Luers case.

The Operation Backfire cases being handled in Washington state have not yet gone to sentencing. One defendant, Briana Waters, maintains she is innocent of the charges.

Waters' trial is scheduled for Feb. 4. She faces 35 years in prison if convicted of acting as a lookout during an environmentally motivated arson at the University of Washington Horticulture Center.

On Dec. 26 Waters' attorneys filed a motion accusing the government of "egregious prosecutorial misconduct." They have asked the judge for a status conference "as soon as possible."

The motion, among other issues, accuses the FBI of "suppression of very significant exculpatory evidence" in Waters' case, as well as the "execution and filing of perjurious declarations by two FBI agents, and the filing of at least one false pleading by the prosecution."

Specifically, the motion accuses the FBI agents of doctoring documents to hide the fact that Waters was not named by cooperating witness Jen Kolar, who has pled guilty to the arson, as a fellow participant in the arson in a December 2005 interview with the FBI. — Camilla Mortensen

CORRECTION/CLARIFICATION

Our Dec. 27 cover story reported that Eugene could use a real estate transfer tax to raise money for housing the homeless. Enacting such a tax would require a change in a state law that preempted local real estate transfer taxes.

THIS MODERN WORLD

2007

AN INCOMPLETE,
SUBJECTIVE, AND
ALTOGETHER
INADEQUATE
**YEAR IN
REVIEW**
PART THE SECOND

SEPT. 10: GEORGE BUSH
REAFFIRMS HIS STATUS
AS IDIOT-IN-CHIEF.
"WE HAVE GOT A BIGGER
ENEMY THAN NAME CALLERS. THAT IS AL QAEDA
OR PEOPLE LOSIN' THEIR JOBS."
—YES, ACTUAL QUOTE.

SEPT. 13: BUSH SAYS
IRAQIS HAVE REQUESTED
AN "ENDURING RELATIONSHIP"
WITH U.S.,
WHICH IS REALLY CONVENIENT,
CAUSE WE'VE
BEEN BUILDING THESE
PERMANENT BASES THERE
ANYWAY!

FUNNY HOW THAT WORKED OUT!
HOW COULD I HAVE KNOWN?

NOV. 9: MICHAEL MUKASEY
CONFIRMED AS ATTORNEY
GENERAL, DESPITE UN-
WILLINGNESS TO CALL
WATERBOARDING TORTURE,
SURE, IT'S UNPLEASANT—
BUT SO IS SITTING IN
RUSH HOUR TRAFFIC!

EVER-COURAGEOUS DEMS
DECLINE TO FILIBUSTER.

DEC. 3: N.I.E. STATES
THAT IRAN'S NUCLEAR
PROGRAM SHUT DOWN IN
2003; PRESIDENT PLEADS
IGNORANCE.

NOBODY TELLS ME ANYTHING
AROUND HERE!

--THAT COULD
HAVE BEEN
MADE BY ANY
ARROGANT, ADUL-
TEROUS MAYOR
WITH AN AUTHOR-
ITARIAN STREAK!

HE IS SURPRISINGLY UN-
CONVINCING.

DECEMBER, VARIOUS DATES:
KARL ROVE EMERGES WITH
A NEW TALKING POINT:
DEMOCRATS LED THE
RUSH TO WAR IN 2003.

IT'S ALL
TOM
DASCHLE'S
FAULT!

HE EVEN MANAGES NOT
TO BURST OUT LAUGHING.

...SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

by TOM TOMORROW

SEPT. 7: WHITE HOUSE
OFFICIALS LEARN OF
PRIVATE INTELLIGENCE
FIRM'S SECRET ENTRY
INTO AL QAEDA COMPUTERS,
IMMEDIATELY LEAK INFO
FOR PARTISAN ADVANTAGE.
GOTTA HAVE PRIORITIES!

NATION REELS IN SHOCK.

OCT. 3: DEPRaved RIGHT-
WING BLOGGERS DECLARE
WAR ON 12-YEAR-OLD
ACCIDENT VICTIM.

AFTER WE'RE DONE WITH
THE KID, I KNOW WHERE
THERE'S A HELPLESS
PUPPY WE CAN TORMENT!

DEC. 13: AL GORE WINS
NOBEL PRIZE; GLENN
BECK'S HEAD EXPLODES.
I'M OKAY! NO BIG DEAL!

I WASN'T USING THOSE
BRAINS ANYWAY!

DECEMBER, VARIOUS DATES:
KARL ROVE EMERGES WITH
A NEW TALKING POINT:
DEMOCRATS LED THE
RUSH TO WAR IN 2003.

IT'S ALL
TOM
DASCHLE'S
FAULT!

HE EVEN MANAGES NOT
TO BURST OUT LAUGHING.

...SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

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news briefs

KICKER COSTS ARE HIDDEN

Last month the mainstream media celebrated the income tax kicker "Christmas present" from the state.

Now comes the hangover and the big credit card bill. A recent report from the Oregon Center for Public Policy laid out the many high costs of those big checks:

- Because of cash flow issues, the state had to borrow money to pay for the kicker checks at an interest cost of about \$45 million.

- Mailing the kicker checks cost about \$1 million.

- About 20 percent of the kicker, \$214 million of \$1.1 billion, will go to Washington, D.C., in the form of higher federal income taxes.

- The kicker will go mostly to the wealthy. The top fifth of taxpayers will get nearly two-thirds of the kicker, averaging \$2,002, or six times what the typical taxpayer will receive.

- The state may have to slash school, health care and other vital services in the future because it didn't save its surplus kicker money for a rainy day. —Alan Pittman

CRIME FALLS, FEAR RISES WITH TV

A recent study by German criminologists found a curious trend. Statistics showed that crime was falling for the last decade but surveys indicated that the public believed that

crime was actually increasing. Why? The University of Hanover researchers linked the unfounded increase in crime fear to television viewing.

Numerous U.S. studies have shown similar results. Crime shows and TV crime hype have made people more scared of crime despite actual falls in crime rates.

A similar phenomenon may be happening here in Eugene. In the last decade, Eugene's violent crime rate has fallen 59 percent and the property crime rate has fallen 41 percent, according to FBI data.

With such a big drop, you'd think the police would be celebrating. But the EPD is focusing more on getting a big boost in their budget, up to 50 percent or about \$20 million a year. A plummeting crime rate doesn't fit in with the argument that more cops are desperately needed.

The Eugene City Council also appears more tuned in to TV crime hype than falling crime rates. The council has made increased police staffing to produce "a community where people feel safe" a major official goal and budget priority. But the studies show a cheaper route to making people "feel safe" may be more funding for TV Turnoff Week at the Eugene library, rather than more cops. —Alan Pittman

REBOOTING DEMOCRACY

A contingency of Lane County residents will be catching the bus to Portland Jan. 11-13 for what's being called "the Northwest's premier nonpartisan political conference." The three-day event to be held at the Montgomery Park Atrium and Ballroom is being sponsored by the Oregon Bus Project. Costs for the conference run from \$95 to \$179 and scholarships are available.

Speakers lined up for the conference include Congressman Earl Blumenauer, former Secretary of State Norma Paulus, Air America host and author Thom Hartman. Candidates expected include Steve Novick, Jeff Merkley, John Kroger, Greg Macpherson, Brad Avakian, Vicki Walker, Rick Metsger and Kate Brown.

Space at the event is limited and a system for nominating people to attend is available at RebootingDemocracy.com, along with informa-

tion about costs, reservations, and arranging bus transportation from Lane County.

SUNA MEETS ABOUT UO BUILDINGS

Residents in the South University Neighborhood Association (SUNA) are gathering at 7 pm Tuesday, Jan. 8 to talk about two big new building projects planned by the UO on the edge of the campus. The projects include a huge basketball arena with parking lots off Franklin Boulevard, and a seven-story student apartment complex at 19th and Alder. Both projects are expected to have an impact on the neighborhood.

The apartment complex is designed for 212 students and will provide parking for 40 cars. "Many neighbors have concluded that no seven-story structure, no matter how well designed, can be compatible with our neighborhood, where there are no buildings more than three stories," says SUNA President Bob Peters in the latest neighborhood newsletter. Peters says "cars belonging to 212 students will flood the streets" of the neighborhood.

Representatives from the apartment developers are expected at the meeting, along with Patricia Thomas of the city's Infill Compatibility Standards project.

Also on the SUNA agenda Tuesday is the Olympic Trials at Hayward Field in late June. "Our neighborhood will have a ringside seat," says Peters. "The Trials are expected to attract 15,000 daily. That means parking could be a worse problem for our neighborhood than during UO athletic events."

OREGON CUTS AUSTRALIAN WEB ACCESS

Who knew Australia depended upon Oregon for its online gaming? Thanks to landslides in Oregon, Australian access to U.S. Internet sites was temporarily cut in half in early December,

WAR DEAD

Since the U.S. invasion of Iraq began on March 20, 2003

(last week's numbers in parentheses):

- **3,902 U.S. troops killed***
(3,897)
- **28,661 U.S. troops injured***
(28,661)
- **132 U.S. military suicides***
(132)
- **307 coalition troops killed****
(307)
- **933 contractors killed**
(accurate updates NA)
- **87,350 to one million Iraqi civilians killed*****
(86,462)
- **\$481.7 billion cost of war**
(\$479.8 billion)
- **\$129.7 million cost to Eugene taxpayers**
(adjusted)

* through Dec. 31, 2007; source: icasualties.org; some figures only updated monthly

** estimate; source: icasualties.org

*** highest estimate; source: iraqbodycount.org; based on confirmed media reports; other groups calculate civilian deaths as high as 655,000 to one million

according to *The Australian* news service.

Southern Cross Cable, which owns the severed cable, diverted Internet traffic to a secondary cable that comes to the U.S. in Southern California, but Internet traffic was significantly slowed for several days.

Two of Australia's three top Internet service providers were affected by the break in the cable from Australia that comes to shore at Nedonna Beach near Tillamook Bay. The break was caused by landslides during the early December storms and repairs were further delayed due to "felled trees and flooding" according to an update to customers from the Australian ISP Optus.

The interrupted service caused complaints on number of Internet forums that rely on U.S. websites. Australian players of the popular online game "Warcraft" were apparently particularly affected, judging by complaints posted in its forums. — Camilla Mortensen

SLANT

• Resolved to be more knowledgeable and involved in local politics in 2008? There's no better way to get up to speed than to attend the **Mayor's State of the City Address** starting at 5:30 pm Monday, Jan. 7 at the Hult Center lobby. The event is free and open to the public and we can expect music and even a table of wholesome treats. Start your year with carrot sticks and celery.

What will her honor be talking about? We predict downtown redevelopment will be high on her list since the November election on urban renewal expansion is still fresh in our memories, and Piercy's enthusiastic support for the failed measure might have something to do with her approval rating dropping a few points in the fall. In her defense, she's stuck between two opposing constituencies: city staff who want big expensive projects (KWG redevelopment, a new City Hall and police palace), and city residents who have other priorities in mind for their taxes.

Monday's meeting is an opportunity for Kitty to do some damage control, and there actually is a lot of good news for her to talk about. Progress can be seen downtown, and she's keeping a list of redevelopments, such as Westown on 8th, KLCC's move downtown, Shedd expansion plans, EWEB site plans, EmX expansion, Down to Earth's expansion, new restaurants, etc.

On her likely wish list for 2008 is broadening and defining the Downtown Plan, tweaking building codes to encourage use of vacant downtown buildings, improving the Park Blocks, better connections between downtown and UO, more housing downtown, dealing with safety downtown without further alienating youth, more programs for youth and the homeless, addressing parking issues (time to take out the parking meters?), making store fronts more attractive to the flockss of visitors coming to Eugene next summer for the Olympic Trials, and even sprucing up city buildings.

Big on Kitty's priority list is her Sustainable Business Initiative, and growing and implementing the SBI is one of the big reasons she's running for reelection in 2008. This is a long-term project and we have years of hard work to catch up, due in part to former Mayor Jim Torrey's lack of leadership, short-sighted councils and resistance from city managers and department heads. Eugene is far from being a leader in sustainability, despite all our green posturing. As the mayor noted in a previous talk this fall, even sprawling Los Angeles is now committed to mass transit and green redevelopment. "We're doing a lot of good things," she told a crowd at the Citizens for Public Accountability annual meeting. "But we need to scale up."

What do we hope the mayor will also talk about Monday? How about the need for an independent performance auditor? An in-house city attorney? More resources to house the homeless?

• A front page R-G story last week reported that Eugene has once again edged out Salem as **Oregon's second largest city!** The story ignored the fact that the Eugene/Springfield metro area has always been much bigger than the Salem/Keizer metro area, but anyway, who cares? Surveys have repeatedly shown that one of the top things most people value in Eugene is its smaller size. Big cities have big traffic jams, big pollution, big crime and big taxes to deal with all the problems. Eugeneans don't want that. They want quality of life, great parks and schools and scenic bike rides to work. The R-G may want a growth race to boost its flagging circulation, but Eugene doesn't. If we want to be proud of something, let's strive in the next couple of years to drop back to number three.

• From local poet JeanMarie Purcell:

AN UNCOMMON MAN

*Not a guy at all touchy and feely
And able to admire Rush Limbaugh,
Michael Lamont (nee Robert McNeely)
Has died – leaving the Bijou in Limbo.
To this quirky genius, musician and spy
Art flicks hardly seemed his cup of tea.
Now what'll we do when others and I,
Some avant garde film we need to see?
I worry, too, if the Bijou is through
Who and who won't be there to pet "Boo"*

• The **deadline for public comment** on the BLM's Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR) is coming up Jan. 11 and while the BLM might not care what you think, your comments can be used to support legal action to stop this blatant attempt by the Bush administration to override sound forest management. The WOPR, if implemented, would drastically increase old-growth logging in federal forests in Oregon and have a detrimental impact on wildlife habitat, water quality, flooding, recreation and fisheries. Clearcutting forests can also contribute to global warming. To find out how to effectively comment on the WOPR, visit OregonHeritageForests.org.

SLANT includes short opinion pieces, observations and rumor-chasing notes compiled by the EW staff. Heard any good rumors lately? Contact Ted Taylor at 484-0519, editor@eugeneweekly.com



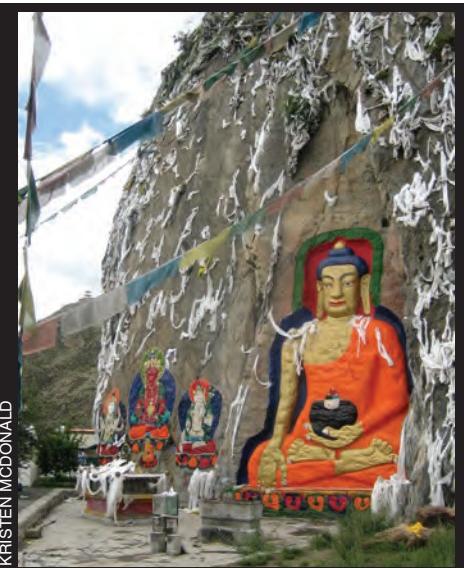
Happening people

PAUL McNAMARA

After high school in Los Angeles and hippie days in Santa Barbara, Paul McNamara migrated to Eugene in 1974 and found a job at Sawyer's Machine Works. Inspired by seeing members of the Society for Creative Anachronism, who fought with rattan bats for swords, he took a fencing class in '76 from UO coach Paul Dart. "I found I was a natural," says McNamara, who became Dart's assistant after six months and founded the Eugene Fencers Club later the same year. Since 1979, he has worked at various jobs for the city of Eugene, then taught fencing in the evening in the same small gym at Roosevelt Middle School. "I've taught three to five thousand students," he estimates. "Some have won full scholarships to Notre Dame and Duke." At age 57, McNamara competes in the veterans division in six to 10 tournaments a year. He teaches twice a week at Roosevelt, once at North Eugene, plus two afternoon classes for home-schoolers. Students range in age from six to 50. "I teach kids how to fight," he says, "to react and not be deer in the headlights." Learn more at eugenefencerclub.org.



BY PAUL NEEVEL



Keeping An Angry River Happy

Rafting a river to save it in China

BY CAMILLA MORTENSEN

Armed with the blessings of a group of Tibetan monks, the rafters launched their crafts into the rain-swollen Salween River in remote eastern Tibet. The team of 16 rafters — from the U.S., Tibet, China and Germany — led by 23-year-old UO student Travis Winn and his 18-year-old sister Carmen, was the first group of whitewater rafters to plunge into this remote river and experience its Grand Canyon style rapids. If these adventurers have their way, they won't be the last.

The Salween River, also known as the Nujiang (Angry River) in Chinese and the Gyalmo Ngulchu in Tibetan, originates in the mountains of Tibet and flows southeast through steep and narrow gorges through China and into Thailand and Burma (also called Mynamar) until it finally empties out into the Andaman Sea in the Indian Ocean. NASA says the Salween is almost completely non-navigable for all but the last 75 of its

1,750 miles. Winn and his companions, including former Eugenean Kristen McDonald, discovered the river can be navigated, but only if you're willing to shoot 15 to 20 foot rapids. Rafting the Salween, according to Winn, is "totally out of this world."

It's hard to believe that in this day and age, you can still be the first to explore a river or wild area. Tibetans have been living along the banks of the Salween River for thousands of years, but Winn and McDonald and their team were the first to raft its waves. Their rafting company — Last Descents River Expeditions — is the first to be licensed for multi-day rafting trips in China. It is also often the first to explore many of China's and Tibet's wild rivers in what rafters call a "first descent."

Unfortunately because of dam building in China, many first descents are also last descents in Asia. A last descent is the last time a river can be rafted before the natural waterway and its landscape are destroyed, in this case by hydroelectric projects. The Salween, says Winn, is the longest free-flowing river in the mainland of Southeast Asia. Winn and McDonald hope to bring the sport of whitewater rafting to China and help the people there save their rivers from destruction.

Red Tape in China

To raft a river in Tibet is to go through Chinese red tape. Tibet, known in China as the Tibetan autonomous prefecture, is populated by 6.5 million Tibetans and 7 million Chinese,

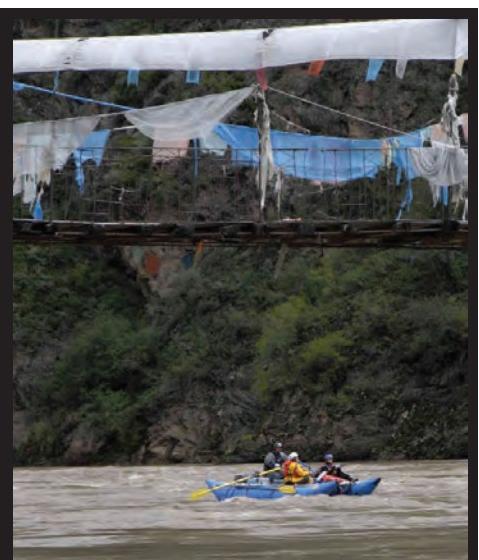
and it has been occupied by China for 50 years. Winn, who speaks fluent Chinese and a little Tibetan, teamed up with Chinese businessman Na Ming Hui to bring whitewater sports to China and Tibet.

The Tibetan name for the Salween, Gyalmo Ngulchu, reflects some of the long and turbulent history between China and Tibet. The words translate to "River of the Princess' Tears" says McDonald, and reflect the story of a Chinese princess who was brought to Tibet to be the bride of the king, crying on her difficult journey. The river was formed of her tears, according to legend.

It's hard to get a permit to raft a river in China, says Winn. Since rafting isn't really a sport there yet, "there are no permits." Difficulties with the red tape led Winn, McDonald (who also speaks Chinese), and Na Ming Hui to co-found Last Descents to facilitate getting permission for their rafting trips. Their concern for the rivers also led McDonald, who is getting her Ph.D. at UC-Berkeley in Environmental Science, and Winn to found a non-profit companion organization in the U.S. called the China Rivers Project (CRP). The CRP seeks to use river recreation to solve social and environmental problems.

To get to the Salween in the first place, once the government cleared the trip, there were other problems to solve: How do you get 16 people and their rafting gear to a river in Tibet and raft an unexplored river safely? Looking at the steep gorges and fast water, "once we put in, could we stop?" wondered Winn.

The rafters planned their trip down the river using a declassified Russian topographic map from 1942 and satellite images from Google Earth.





KRISTEN MCDONALD

Pausing on the road to the river



Travis Winn, Kristen McDonald and Na Ming Hui



Prayer flags

Tibetan Rapids

The place where the rafters planned to put in on the river is a hard three days drive from Lhasa on narrow muddy roads over 16,000-foot mountain passes in Land Cruisers, stopping for the occasional yak. The area is so remote that many of the people there were seeing Westerners for the first time.

'They thought we were crazy; a woman saw the boats and ran screaming away.' — Kristen McDonald

The rafters planned their trip down the river using a declassified Russian topographic map from 1942 and satellite images from Google Earth. But the only way to get to know the river, its rapids and whirlpools, was to put the rafts and kayaks in and go.

After months of planning and thousands of miles of travel, the river trip seemed like it would end before it began. The river levels were dangerously high from the recent rains. While they waited in hopes the water would drop to a level safe for rafting, a Buddhist monastery in the town of Sadeng spontaneously decided to host the team.

The monks there welcomed the rafters and invited them in to prayer sessions and for games of tug-o-war. "While they were praying for rain, we were praying for sunshine," laughs Winn. Winn, who's getting ready to graduate UO's Clark Honors College, had to make what he called, "the hardest decision of my life," when it came time to decide whether to try the river. After a test run on one of the Salween's tributaries and with blessings from the monks written on their rafting gear, the rafters decided to go for it.

They were rewarded right away with "three and half miles of nonstop Class III plus whitewater — you could just sit in the middle

and have fun," says Winn.

"It was classic," he says, "Grand Canyon rapids followed by fast water." The rafters sped along at seven to eight miles per hour through narrow canyons and high granite peaks. The rafters experienced miles and miles of "roller-coaster rapids." They saw "small villages, high up," says Winn.

according to McDonald. They saw the tracks of Tibetan black bears as well as their scat.

"What makes us driven to these really remote places is not conquering but feeling like we are doing something for the first time," she says.

The rafters encountered huge, 20-foot ocean sized "Waimea waves" as they contin-

ued potential for bringing rural and urban Chinese together. I know it can happen — it's just in the details."

Many of China's rivers are endangered by hydroelectric projects. Perhaps the best known is the Three Gorges Dam that forced the relocation of more than a million people, and the waters are covering unknown amounts of natural and cultural heritage and even causing earthquakes. Problems from the dam project such as toxic algae and landslides are making the news in China and abroad. It was recently revealed that while the U.S. largely stayed out of that project, Canada provided major support.

The hydroelectric project planned for the Salween involves 13 dams on the section of the river that flows through China's Yunnan Province, says McDonald, who is researching and writing about this project for her doctoral dissertation. The Salween project is supposedly larger than the Three Gorges Dam.

The project is currently on hold, but the rafters floated by the construction of at least one hydroelectric project on the river during their trip. McDonald compares the "development at all costs" mentality that can be found in China to a charging elephant: "It's really hard to slow it down."

So even as Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao

The villagers "had never seen a white person, let alone a crazy contraption called a raft," says McDonald. The rafters wore bright colored dry suits, life jackets and helmets, which along with their safety orange and yellow crafts, made them look even stranger.

"Tibetans believe rivers are a sacred place, a place of spirits, not of humans," says McDonald. "They thought we were crazy," she says. "A woman saw the boats and ran screaming away."

At one point the rafters met an elderly Tibetan man who had never left the Salween Canyon. He walks the banks of the river each day with his herd of yaks, carrying an umbrella to protect him from the sun. The Tibetan member of the team, Chongdak, an avid rafter since 2002, served as translator between the

ued down the river, but got through safely. Sometimes the canyon walls were so high, the only way to scout the rapids was by sending the kayakers on ahead through the class IV rapids. Chongdak and Na Ming Hui flipped in their raft on the last day of the trip, but in the end, all the rafters emerged unscathed, and exhilarated, even if a little wet.

Dam Building

Having discovered a river that rivals America's best rafting rivers in its rapids and its pristine wilderness, McDonald and Winn now want to stop that river from being dammed, inundating the flora and fauna as well as the homes of the people who live there.

"As foreigners, it's not appropriate or

'It wasn't a culture clash; we had wonderful interactions.' — Kristen McDonald

team and the people they met. "It wasn't a culture clash," says McDonald, "we had wonderful interactions."

The scenery was "amazing," she says. The rafters, when they weren't negotiating the whitewater, saw Tibetan eagles, hawks and the blue sheep that are the prey of the snow leopard,

productive for us to go in and say, 'Don't build a dam,'" says Winn. "One thing we can do is bring people to see these places."

He is excited not only about bringing Westerners in to experience these rivers, but more importantly showing the Chinese the wonders of their own country: "Rivers have

put the project on hold in 2004 until a better assessment of the impacts of the dams can be done, the International Rivers Network says that China Huadian Corporation and the Yunnan provincial government are still at work on a scaled back version of the project.

If the project is finished, it would move



ANTON GRIESBACH

Tibetan monks check out the rafters



Prayer flags in the mountains of Tibet



KRISTEN McDONALD

Tibetan monk and dog

about 50,000 people, most of them from ethnic minority hill tribes. It would also endanger the area's biodiversity from fish to birds.

A portion of the Salween runs through a UNESCO designated "World Heritage Site" called Three Parallel Rivers. UNESCO calls the site an "epicenter of Chinese biodiversity." UNESCO warned the Chinese government that if the dam construction continues, the area will be added to the "List of World Heritage in Danger."

China has recently switched to a system of environmental reviews, similar to that used here in the U.S. This means that environmental assessments should be available to the public, unless there are "state secrets" involved, says McDonald. Because the Salween is a "transboundary river," it may be harder to get copies of the reviews done on the four dams already underway.

McDonald, who grew up in Oregon rafting rivers with her parents, says that unless the dams are stopped, "the river heritage of China is going to disappear."

Winn and McDonald plan to continue to "actually take people there and get the message across," she says. They are eager to bring people from government officials to the media and show them what McDonald calls, "The transformative power of being in a wild place for eight days."

The fact that that wild place has what McDonald calls "big and bouncy" rapids and "huge waves" doesn't hurt either for these environmentalists and adventure-seekers who want to persuade the people from Eugene to China to save their rivers. **CW**

To experience rafting in the wilds of Tibet and China in the Year of the Rat, go to www.lastdescents.com for a list of upcoming trips. Or contact Travis Winn at traviswinn@lastdescents.com. For more information on saving the rivers of China and Tibet go to www.chinariversproject.org.



ANTON GRIESBACH

Schoolchildren in the town of Sadeng



Epicocity videographer Brian Eustis runs a waterfall in Papua New Guinea as villagers look on.

and Sahalie on the McKenzie River) in a kayak. He's scored the first two but has yet to attempt Sahalie. Getting slightly philosophical, Jennings describes his plummet down 101-foot tall Metlako as "incredibly liberating," saying he "felt more free than any other time [he could] remember." But it is his international exploits that led *National Geographic Adventure* (NGA) magazine to name him a 2008 Adventurer of the Year for his team's first descent down the Pandi River on remote New Britain Island off the coast of Papua New Guinea. Jennings has said (in an interview posted on NGA's website)

Getting slightly philosophical, Jennings describes his plummet down 101-foot tall Metlako as "incredibly liberating," saying he "felt more free than any other time [he could] remember."

that the goal in traveling to these fragile areas for "exploration and adventure" is to "motivate westerners to reduce [their] footprint wherever possible." Basically: skip the five-star resorts and pack light.

When asked to offer his advice for those explorers who have the urge to experience a part of the planet that, for lack of better words, are due for damnation, he was quick to note that Oregonians are "incredibly lucky" with the "lifetimes of adventures here in Oregon." But even those adventures won't be the same after "all the trees we'll cut by 2012," Jennings says. For close-to-home jaunts, Jennings points to the Rogue, Illinois and Salmon river watersheds. While you're at it, you could also hike the Pacific Crest Trail and climb Oregon's volcanoes, he says. (Because who knows when those are going to blow.) Internationally, it seems that rafting or kayaking rivers that are due for hydroelectric dams is your best bet, and Jennings suggests the White Nile (Uganda), the Futaleufu (Chile) and "any free flowing rivers" in China. But that's assuming you can still reach these areas in the first place.

As oil prices continue to climb and carbon-offsetting your sky miles fails to curb the root problem of consumption, intrepid explorers are increasingly powering these adventures with their own two feet. For 2008, Jennings is planning a speaking tour and kayaking trip across the U.S. How will he get around? By bike, of course.

— Chuck Adams



Trip Jennings runs 100+foot Metlako Falls in the Columbia River Gorge

COURTESY OF EPICOCITY

2008: A Year of Living Dangerously

Outdoor pursuits at the cusp of apocalypse

"Four More Years." We may be seeing this slogan on bumper stickers a lot in 2008, more due to celestial calendars and futurist paranoia than presidential campaigns. That's because, by nearly every measurement, 2012 will be momentous. NASA data suggests the poles may reverse (sooner than later). The ancient Mayans predicted the return of Quetzalcoatl, their god of destiny. Some geologists believe oil extractions will peak and 2012 will inaugurate a "dark age" of frequent blackouts and brownouts. And Christian evangelists believe the Second Coming is near (or nearish).

Eager as we are for the apocalypse (see: Y2k; see: 9/11), the hype may inevitably lead to new forms of risk-taking: thrills, chills and apocalypse tourism. The idea is: See and do now what you probably won't be able to see and do in four years (at least not fast and cheap). For example, visit polar bears in their natural habitat, climb Mount Kilimanjaro's glaciers or raft wild rivers in Tibet. But there are ways to accomplish such feats without speeding up these area's destruction (see cover story).

Enter Trip Jennings, a local thrill-seeker and co-owner of the Epicocity Project, an outdoor media company bent on protecting natural areas, who has a personal goal to run what he calls the "Triple Crown" of Oregon waterfalls (Metlako on Eagle Creek and Koosah

Here are some other dangerous (and snarky) pursuits to consider:

Drive to the coast on logging roads Best to take a dirt bike on this trek, as many roads are now gated, and will require maneuverability. Just bring a map and compass, as half the fun is trying not to initiate a statewide search-and-rescue operation.

Practice disaster tourism When disaster strikes — a Cascade volcano blows its top, for instance — it is very important you are on the scene, ready to take dramatic, print-ready digital images. Bring a hard hat, as rocks thrown at you by disaster victims may be a hazard.

Going on vacation next November If you're a believer of the 2012 hype, then you've got plenty of doomsday candidates willing to make your hypothesis a reality. Take Mitt Romney or Rudy Giuliani, for example. Absentee ballots are a gamble with worse odds than Russian roulette. Best to be at your home address and vote in November — in person.

WHAT'S happening



It's "an explosion of sight and sound!" It's a "phenomenon of historic proportions!" It's "unlike anything else!" And now from Tuesday through Saturday it's sold out beyond your wildest dreams!!! Welcome to **Riverdance**'s farewell engagement tour, please take your nose-bleed seats in the balcony of the Hult Center, lean forward slightly, take out those binocs if you got 'em and prepare yourself for a "thunderous celebration" of, uh, um ... Irish song and dance. Our neato recommendation: Squint your eyes and put out your hand so you can only see the dancers from the waist up. It looks like they're floating, right? Super cool. We don't want to really hype a show you've either got tickets to or don't. But there are a few scalpers on Craigslist selling seats for \$55 and up, so don't feel too helpless. See Tuesday Calendar.



Two former and founding members of the Québécois supergroup La Bottine Souriante have relocated to the West Coast and reformed into a duo of fiddle and guitar. **Lisa Ornstein** (pictured above) and **André Marchand** have been collaborating for the past 30 years on traditional music from the far northeastern reaches of Canada (also known as the Acadia region, sort of like Cascadia in central Oregon or the State of Jefferson in southern Oregon). Interestingly, the Cajuns of New Orleans were mostly descendants of Acadians who were expelled from northeast Canada by the British in 1755. We mention this only to suggest a connection between Ornstein and Marchand's Wednesday performance at Sam Bond's and the **Cajun/Zydeco dance** earlier in the evening at the World Café, a **presentation on travels in Quebec province** at Springfield's Willamalane Adult Activity Center on Tuesday and a certain restaurant across the street from Sam Bond's serving up a soulful dish of the South with Cajun-style flair (should you require relevant edibles with your music, dancing and slideshows). *Eugene Weekly:* Because connections are important. See Calendar.



StART the new year off right with a **First Friday ARTWalk** "pARTy" and five-year anniversary celebration at the Downtown Library, where local ARTist John Rose unveils his new stained glass window on the library's first floor. More than 100 years of library history and lore are displayed in a photographic exhibit on the second floor and

local pARTy band Riffle turns up the music, turns off the shushing and allows you to dance in a crazy manner around the stacks. For ARTWalkers, local ARTist Tenold Peterson will then lead the group to the Jacobs Gallery for the closing reception of the "Four Visions: The Human Story" group exhibit in multiple mediums (art by J. G. Pretti pictured). Third and final stop this month (it's a short one) is at the Museum of Unfine ART, where an open exhibit of ART and photography by over 30 ARTists – all relating to the theme of the family – is shown through Feb. 14. See Friday Calendar.



3

THURSDAY

Sunrise 7:48am; Sunset 4:45pm
Av High 45; Av Low 32

FOOD/DRINK Wine tasting: New World wines, 5pm-9pm, WineStyles. \$5.

GATHERINGS Paradise RV Show, 10am-7pm today & tomorrow; 10am-8pm Jan. 5; 11am-6pm Jan. 6, Lane County Fairgrounds. FREE.
Women's Business Network mtg., feat. Mike Lehman speaking on "changes in employment law," w/buffet lunch, 11:45am, Valley River Inn, Reserve, 984-8778. \$20, \$13 members.
Presentation on snowshoeing & cross country skiing, 2:30pm, Campbell Center, 155 High St. www.eugene-or.gov/recenroll FREE.

Teen Gaming Afternoon, 1pm-3pm, Downtown Library. 682-8316. FREE.
MUSIC Show tunes with Kaitlyn Sage, 12:15pm, Hult Center lobby. FREE.
The Pine Box Boys, 9pm, Sam Bond's. 21+. \$5.
ON THE AIR "The Jefferson Exchange" discusses low-budget films w/Ed Polish, 9am & 9pm, KRVN 1280 AM.
"New Dimensions" discusses "Practice and Grace: The Oness

JANUARY ONGOING EVENTS

All events free unless otherwise noted.

THURSDAYS

ARTS/VISUAL Open Art Studio, 6pm-9pm, M.E.C.C.A. 302-1810. \$2-\$5/hr.
GATHERINGS "Ask the Doula," 1pm-4pm, Mama Rose's Naturals. 485-9430. HIV testing & STD clinic for general public, 1pm-3pm, Lane Co. Public Health, 135 E. 6th Ave. 682-4041. \$30, can be deferred.
Cascadia's Ecosystem Advocates meeting, 5pm, Emerald City Coffee. 688-2600.

KIDS/FAMILIES Pre-school storytime, 10:30am, Sheldon Library. 682-8316.
LGBT LGBT drop-in/support group, 7:30pm, Womenspace. 302-2417.

MUSIC The Lunch Crowd w/Dirty Mac, 10am daily, Emerald City Coffee House. All Acoustic Music Jam, 10:30-noon, Campbell Center. 682-5318.

OUTDOORS/RECREATION Drop-in kayaking, 8:30pm-10pm, Echo Hollow Pool. \$4.

SOCIAL DANCE Ballroom, latin, swing dance, 7:30pm, St. Mary's Episcopal Church. 344-7591. \$5.
English/Scottish Country Dance, 7:30pm, Drama Studio, Willamette High School.

SPIRITUAL Bhagavad-gita reading & study, 6pm, Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Ashram. 687-1093.

FRIDAYS

FARMERS' MARKETS Veneta Downtown Farmers' Market, 2pm-7pm, corner of Territorial & W. Broadway.

FOOD/DRINK Free espresso shots, 4pm-7pm, The Wandering Goat. Wine tasting, 5pm-7pm, The Broadway.

GATHERING Group piano lesson, 10:30am, Lawson's Keyboard Center. 968-8056.

Food Not Bombs serves meals, 3:30pm-5pm, Broadway & Willamette (or 8th & Oak St. in case of rain).

KIDS/FAMILIES Baby storytime, 10:15am & 11am, Downtown Library. 682-8316.

Pre-school storytime, 10:15am & 11:15am, Bethel Library. 682-5766.
LGBT Queer Straight Alliance of LCC meetings, 12:30pm & 2:30pm Fridays and 3pm Thursdays, Rm. 206, Building 1, LCC. 463-3245.

GLBTQ Youth Group for ages 13-18, 4pm, Amazon Community Center. 684-3466.

Men's & women's gay/straight AA, 6pm, 1414 Kincaid. 484-6259.

ON THE AIR "Informed Talk," Eugene/Springfield community dialogue, 4pm, KWVA 88.1 FM.

SOCIAL DANCE Ballroom dance, 7:30pm, 220 Gerlinger Hall, 15th &

University, UO. 346-6025.

Ballroom dance, 8:30pm, StaverDanceSport. 746-6268. \$10.

SPIRITUAL Peaceful Mama Meditations, 9:30am, Mama Rose's Naturals. 485-9430. \$5-\$10 sug. don.

SATURDAYS

GATHERINGS Motherless Daughters support group, 10am, 5th St. Beanery. 349-0382.

Family Yoga, 10am, StaverDanceSport, 41 E. 6th Ave. \$5 per person.
Co-Dependents Anonymous Serenity Meeting, noon, White Bird Clinic.

KIDS/FAMILIES Family Music Time, 2pm, Downtown Library. 682-8316.

Dog Tale Time, kids read to dogs, 2pm, Downtown Library. Register, 682-5450.

LGBT Eugene GLBTQ Frontrunners meeting, 9am, 15th & Agate. 683-2692 or 484-6259.

MUSIC Dj Amelia, 10am, Wandering Goat.

OUTDOORS/RECREATION Table Tennis doubles, 8:30am, Willamalane Adult Center. www.lanetabletennis.net or 343-8055.

SOCIAL DANCE Tango dance, 8pm, The Tango Center. www.tangocenter.org \$5.

Ballroom dance, 8:30pm, StaverDanceSport. 746-6268. \$7.

SPIRITUAL Green Tara, 9:45am, K.D.C. Meditation Center, 917 E. 43rd. Avadhut Fellowship, w/veggie potluck, facilitated by Radha-Syam Das, 11am, Shambala, 446 E. 13th. 868-1178.

Adyashanti-video, meditation, inquiry, 4:30pm, River Rd. area. 461-8044 or 206-2589. \$2 sug. don.

VOLUNTEER

Willow Creek Preserve restoration work, 9:30am every 2nd Saturday. Matt, 915-7459. Bring lunch, water, gloves.

VIGIL Peace vigil, noon, old federal courthouse, 7th & Pearl.

SUNDAYS

GATHERINGS Drums of Peace (bring your drum), 2pm, old Federal Building.

Food Not Bombs serves meals, 3pm-5pm, Washington-Jefferson Park.

Fairmount Neighborhood Historic District discussion group, 7pm, Starbucks, 13th & Alder.

LGBT Coffee Social, 1pm, Q Center, 1309 Lincoln St. Don.

MUSIC All Ages Jazz Jam, 3:30pm, The Jazz Station.

ON THE AIR "Sunday Morning Hangover" w/Rev. Marc Time, exotic, bizarre children's music, comedy, more, 10am-noon, KWVA 88.1 FM.

SOCIAL DANCE "Coalescence: The

Alchemy of Movement," a community dance event in the ecstatic dance tradition, 10:30am, Eugene Ballet Academy, 1590 Willamette. 556-4355. \$5-\$10. Veselo Community Folk Dancers cultural dance, 7:15pm, In Shape Fitness, 2681 Willamette. \$3, \$2 stu, sr.

SPIRITUAL Programs on the "Path of Pure Desire," 10am, call 653-8859 for details.

Chenrezig (Bodhisattva of Compassion) practice, 10am, Nyen-Gyud Samten Choe-Ling Tibetan Buddhist Study and Meditation Center. www.ngscl.org

Meditation and practice of the Buddha Path, 11am, Dzogchen Dharma Center, 2895 Oak St.

Dharmachakra, 4:30pm, Dharmalaya Center, 356 Horn Ln.

Mahakala, 5:15pm, K.D.C. Meditation Center, 917 E. 43rd.

Kirtan chanting-devotional gathering & feast, 6pm, Sri Chaitanya Saraswati Ashram, 25 E. 32nd Ave.

soul2soul108@yahoo.com

Way of the Tao Drum Medicine Wheel, 7pm 2nd and 4th Sundays, Yurt, 2826 Floral Hill. 915-5723. Don.

VIGIL Drums of Peace, 2pm-4pm, old federal courthouse, 7th & Pearl.

MONDAYS

GATHERINGS Drop-in group for survivors of sexual assault/abuse, 7pm, Sexual Assault Support Services, 591 W. 19th Ave. 484-9791.

Co-Dependents Anonymous meeting, noon, St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

HIV Alliance offers Rapid HIV tests to men who have sex with men and partners of HIV+ folks, 5pm-8pm, 1966 Garden Ave. Angela, 342-5088.

Poker Night, 6pm, Q Center, 1309 Lincoln St. 726-1046.

Springfield Jazz Singers rehearsal, 7pm, Emerald Art Center. www.springfieldjazz-singers.org or 744-1097.

Sing & perform Russian music, 7pm, Eugene Hotel. 747-7416.

Contact Improvisational jams, 7pm, Dharmalaya. 461-1384. \$5.

LGBT Men's gay/straight AA, 6pm, 1414 Kincaid. 484-6259.

ON THE AIR "Anarchy Radio" with John Zerzan, 9pm, KWVA 88.1 FM.

SOCIAL DANCE International folk dance, 7pm, St. Mary's Episcopal Church. 688-0099. www.eugenefolk-dancers.com \$150.

West Coast Swing dance, 7:30pm, Rock 'n' Rodeo. 687-9464.

Tango dance to alternative tango music, 8pm-11pm, Tango Center. \$4-\$7.

Tango dance, 8:30pm, Centro Del Sol, 513 E. Main, Cottage Grove.

SPIRITUAL Christian Science reading group: *Misc. Writings* by Eddy, 2pm, CS Reading Room, 1135 Willamette. 344-6341. FREE.

Spiritual Circle, 5pm, 5th St. Public

Community Meeting Rm. 543-5994.

Open Sky Shambhala Meditation group, 6:30pm, 100 W. Q St., Spfd. 726-1988.

Guided meditation, 7pm, Shambala, 446 E. 13th. 868-1178. Don.

SOCIAL DANCE West Coast Swing dance, 7pm, Agate Hall, UO. www.68swing.com

Afro-Brazilian dance study group w/live music, 8pm, Core Star Cultural Center,

Blessing," w/Arjuna Ardagh, 6:30pm, KLCC 89.7 FM.

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FRIDAY

Sunrise 7:48am; Sunset 4:48pm
Av High 45; Av Low 32

ARTS/VISUAL First Friday ARTWalk, 5:30pm, meet at Downtown Library. FREE.

6pm openings include the "Family Show," open exhibition of art about family, Museum of Unfine Art.

FILM Dorothy Day: Don't Call Me A Saint, 7:30pm, Cozmic Pizza. Don.

GATHERINGS Church Women United in Eugene mtg., "Faith in Action," 9:15am, Springfield Church of the Brethren, 1072 Main St. FREE.

Factory Direct Recliner Liquidation sale, 10am-8pm today & tomorrow; 10am-6pm Jan. 6, Lane County Fairgrounds. FREE.

City Club Friday Forum: "Dorm Life: Feeling at Home at UO," w/Mike Eyster, UO housing director, 11:50am, Downtown Athletic Club. www.cityclubofeugene.org \$3.

First Friday at the Downtown Library, feat. art walk stop, Riffle dance band, 5pm-8pm, Downtown Library. FREE.

Paradise RV Show continues. See Thursday, Jan. 3.

KIDS/FAMILIES Tot Discovery Day: "Snowman Science," 10am-noon, Science Factory. \$10 parent/child, \$2 each add'l child.

Storyteller Rick Huddle tells of "The Mouse That Barked" and other international folktales, 2pm, Downtown Library. 682-8316. FREE.

Storytime: Pajamarama! 7pm, Barnes & Noble. FREE.

MUSIC The Soothsayers, The Ovulators, The Valient Arms, 9:30pm, Sam Bond's. 21+. \$5.

ON THE AIR "The Jefferson Exchange" discusses hunger & homelessness w/SOU prof Jody Waters, 9am & 9pm, KRVN 1280 AM.

SOCIAL DANCES Salsa dance w/DJ's Herman & Barb, 9pm, Tango Center, 194 W. Broadway. \$5.

SPIRITUAL Dances of Universal Peace, 7pm, Far Horizon Montessori School. 345-4951. Don.

5

SATURDAY

Sunrise 7:48am; Sunset 4:49pm
Av High 45; Av Low 32

ARTS/VISUAL Oregon Crafted open studio weekend, 10am-4pm today & tomorrow, various locations in Lane County. Map/guidebook required. www.oregoncrafted.org

Open Studio w/Scott Huette &

video & discussions, 7pm, Spiritual Growth Center, 390 Vernal. 995-3799.

VIGIL "Practicing Being Peace," silent meditation, 8:15am, old federal bldg., 7th & Pearl.

WEDNESDAYS

FILM S.P.R.O.U.T-ed Cinema, radical movie nights, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, The Lorax Manner, 1648 Alder St. 683-0642 for movie info.

GATHERINGS Reiki practitioner exchange, 1pm-3pm every 1st & 3rd Wednesday, Willamalane Center, 215 W. C St., Spfd. 726-8737.

Recovery Inc., self help mental health support group, 5pm, McNail-Riley House, 13th & Jefferson. 461-5495.

Co-Dependents Anonymous Women's Open Step Study meeting, 5:30pm, St. Thomas Episcopal Church.

HIV+ social and support group, 6pm, HIV Alliance. 342-5088.

KIDS/FAMILIES Pre-school storytime for ages 3-6 and lapisl storytime for up to age 3, 10am, Springfield Library. Pre-school storytime, 10:15am & 11am, Downtown Library. 682-8316.

Children's storytime (new & old favorites), 6:30pm, Barnes & Noble.

LGBT Queer friendly writers group, 4pm, Suite 34, EMU, UO.

Rapid HIV tests for gay/bi/queer/trans men (incentives available), afternoons, Lane Co. Public Health. Greg, 682-3959, or Michael, 342-5088 for an appointment.

Queer Women's Night, 6pm-9pm, Q Center, 1309 Lincoln. 762-1046.

ON THE AIR</



Portland
electro-rock
group The
Slants play
Lucky's
Saturday

Sisy Anderson, 10am-4pm today & tomorrow, 2548 Potter St. FREE.

An opening for work by Jan Zach, 3:30pm, Karin Clarke Gallery. FREE.

FILM Lorane Movie Night: *Elephant* by Gus Van Sant, and *Looking Backwards*, 6pm, Lorane Grange. 942-2219. \$7, \$5 under age 12 sug. don.

GATHERINGS "Explore the Quest for Fire" demo & clinic, 10am, Dorris Ranch Living History Museum, Spfd. Register, 736-4544. \$3.

Wellness thru detox, weight loss, inflammation control & nutrition presentation by Guthrie Chiropractic & Massage Center, 1pm, Downton Library. FREE.

Emerald Valley Indoor BMX Race, register 3pm-4pm today & 10am-11am tomorrow, race immediately following, Lane County Fairgrounds. 654-2761. \$10 for bikes, FREE for spectators.

Paradise RV Show continues. See Thursday, Jan. 3.

Factory Direct Recliner Liquidation sale continues. See Friday.

KIDS/FAMILIES First Saturday Art Studio (for ages 9-14), 9am-noon, Emerald Art Center, Spfd. 726-8595. \$5.

LGBT Rainbow River Womyn lesbian social mtg., 5pm, McMenamins North Bank. 514-1639. FREE.

LITERARY ARTS Eugene Poetry Slam, feat. Dakota Belle Witt, 7:30pm, Fenario Gallery, 881 Willamette. \$5.

MUSIC Thomas Kramer, The Slight Return, Ronan Baker, 7pm, Cozmic Pizza. \$5.

Los Cumbiamberos, 9:30pm, Sam Bond's. 21+. \$5.

The Slants, 10pm, Luckey's. 21+. \$3-\$5.

OUTDOORS/RECREATION Mushroom Walk, 11am, Dorris Ranch Living History Museum, Spfd. Register, 954-7116. \$3.

'Sapping in the Winter walk, led by Tom Bettman, 1pm, Mount Pisgah Arboretum. RSVP, 747-

6 SUNDAY

Sunrise 7:48am; Sunset 4:50pm
Av High 46; Av Low 33

ARTS/VISUAL Oregon Crafted open studio weekend continues. See Saturday.

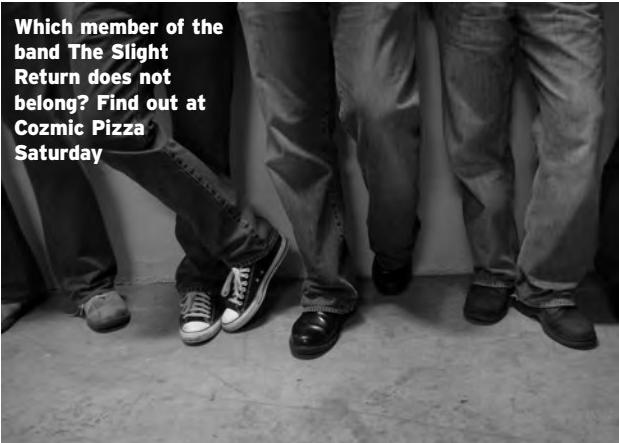
Open Studio w/Scott Huette & Sisy Anderson continues. See Saturday.

FILM Pema Chodron & Alice Walker in Conversation, discussion & potluck brunch, 11am, Center for Sacred Sciences, 1571 Buck St. 345-0102. FREE.

Films of Krzysztof Kieslowski: *Blue* at 1pm; *White* at 4pm; *Red* at 7pm, DIVA. FREE.

GATHERINGS Piccadilly flea market, 10am-4pm, Lane County Fairgrounds. \$1.50.

Which member of the band The Slight Return does not belong? Find out at Cozmic Pizza Saturday



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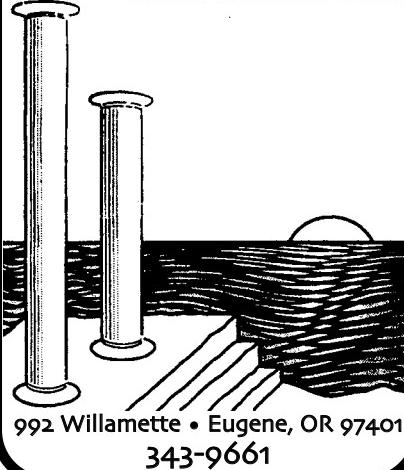
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JANUARY 3, 2008

17

What's Your New Years Resolution?

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Using Emotional Freedom Techniques (EFT) to Stop Cigarette Cravings - \$25
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Eat Right for Your Baby for Pregnant and New Moms - \$29
Is your New Years Resolution to eat right for yourself and your baby? We have a class that will show you what foods are best for you while you are pregnant, breastfeeding, or for baby's first foods.

Eat Right for Your Ideal Weight - \$29
If your resolution for the new year is to find a diet that works for you, then check out the Blood Type Diet that shows you how to eat and is tailored to your needs.

Introduction to the Shamanic Journey - \$35
Are you seeking a spiritual quest for the new year that is both fun and challenging? If you are, join us.

Assisting Your Aging Parents - \$49
Does the New Year find you helping your parents with life transitions? We have a class that will help you to understand Medicare, Medicaid, housing options and more.

REGISTER BY:

Phone:
Call the Continuing Education Department at (541) 463-5252

Web:
ExpressLane (www.lanecc.edu/explane)

In-Person:
Downtown Center, 1059 Willamette St., Eugene, OR 97401

See more classes at: www.lanecc.edu/ce



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2008, Slavic Festival

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January 17

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7pm • Agate Hall, University of Oregon

January 18

Slavic Wonderland: Star Filled Russian Nights
7:30pm • Hult Center for the Performing Arts

January 19 & 20

Slavic Festival

9AM-11PM • Regional Sports Center, Springfield

January 24

Voronezh Devchata
7pm • Agate Hall, University of Oregon

January 26

Russian Restaurant
6:30PM • Lane Community College



TICKETS: Star Filled Russian Nights at hultcenter.org 682-5000. All other events at slavichome.org 579-3900 or at the door.

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calendar



SPIRITUAL Tarot study circle, 3pm, Shambala, 446 E. 13th. 868-1178. Don.

Taize service, 7pm, Unity of the Valley Church. FREE.

ON THE AIR "The Jefferson Exchange" discusses genetically engineered foods, 9am & 9pm, KRVN 1280 AM.

OUTDOORS/ RECREATION

Walkabout, 1pm, departs from Campbell Center, 155 High. Register, 682-5318. \$2.

Women's Climb Night at the Crux, open to all levels, 7pm, Crux Rock Gym, W. 3rd & Lawrence St. \$12.

SPIRITUAL Alchemical healing monthly circle, 6:30pm, [office@shamanicjourneys.com](http://shamanicjourneys.com) or 484-1099 for directions. Don.

ON THE AIR "The Jefferson Exchange" discusses the applications of nanotechnology, 9am & 9pm, KRVN 1280 AM.

"Alternative Radio" presents Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speech: "Beyond Vietnam," 6:30pm, KLCC 89.7 FM.

7

MONDAY

Sunrise: 7:48am; Sunset 4:51pm
Av High 46; Av Low 33

GATHERING Mayor Kitty Piercy gives a "State of the City" address, 5:30pm, Hult Center lobby. FREE.

LECTURE "The Benefits to Human Consciousness of a Vegetarian Diet," Ravi Logan, 7pm, McNail-Riley House, 601 W. 13th. 343-8055. FREE.

MUSIC Sound-Bytes: Mark Gould & Pink Baby Monster, 11:54am, Collier House, UO. FREE.

8

TUESDAY

Sunrise 7:47am; Sunset 4:52pm
Av High 46; Av Low 33

DANCE Riverdance, 7:30pm today, tomorrow and Jan. 10; 8pm Jan. 11-12; 2pm Jan. 11, Hult Center. SOLD OUT.

FILM Eckhart Tolle's Retreat in India: Spiritual Practice and the Patterns of Resistance, w/discussion, 7pm, SGC, 390 Vernal St. 995-3799. FREE.

GATHERINGS Lana Lindstrom & Richard Hughes give a presentation on travels in Quebec province, 1:30pm, Willamalane Adult Activity Center, 215 West C St. Register, 736-4444. FREE.

Speed Dating event for single professionals, ages 43-56 at 6:30pm;

9

WEDNESDAY

Sunrise 7:47am; Sunset 4:53pm
Av High 46; Av Low 33

DANCE Riverdance continues. See Tuesday.

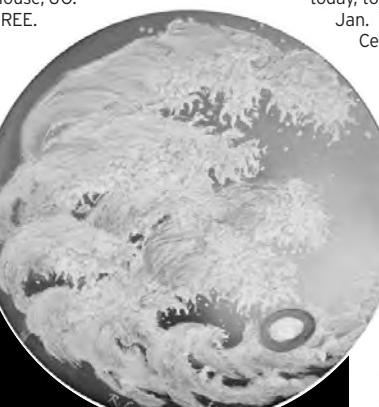
FILM S.P.R.O.U.T.ed film series: V for Vendetta, 8pm, The Lorax, 1648 Alder. FREE.

GATHERINGS E-MUG's monthly meeting, topic: Bento, 6:30pm, Vet's Memorial Bldg., 1626 Willamette. FREE.

Rainy Day Blues Society's Events Committee mtg., 6:30pm, Mac's at the Vet's Club, 1626 Willamette. FREE.

LECTURE Cities in War, Struggle and Peace lecture series: "The Many Uses of Reconstruction: Ideology, Economics and Designs in Berlin, 1945-2008," Brian Ladd, 7:30pm, 177 Lawrence, UO. FREE.

MUSIC African Children's Choir, 11am, Eugene Faith Center, 1410 W. 13th Ave. FREE.



See artists (like Rebecca LaMothe, her art pictured) create their art during the Oregon Crafted open studio Saturday and Sunday

Breakfast Seven Days a Week



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The Lorane Movie Night
presents *Elephant*, Gus Van Sant's meditation on high school violence, at the Lorane Grange Saturday

CALENDAR

Lisa Ornstein & André Marchand, 9pm, Sam Bond's, 21+. \$5-\$10.

ON THE AIR "The Jefferson Exchange" discusses the changing models for nursing homes, 9am & 9pm, KRVM 1280 AM.

OUTDOORS/RECREATION WREN hosts a Wednesday Wander, 9am, meet at Stewart Pond. Binoculars provided. www.wewetlands.org or 683-6494. FREE.

SOCIAL DANCE Cajun/ Zydeco dance, 6:30pm-9pm, World Café. FREE.

THEATER Memory House, preview performance, 8pm today & tomorrow, Lord Lebrick Theater, 540 Charnelton. 465-1506. \$10, \$7 reduced.

10 THURSDAY

Sunrise 7:47am; Sunset 4:54pm
Av High 46; Av Low 33

ARTS/VISUAL An opening for "Architects as Artists" exhibit, w/panel discussion on architecture & downtown development, feat. Mayor Kitty Piercy, city planner Nan Laurence, Brad Maslin from Beam Development, Robert Orshatz, more, 5:30pm, DIVA. FREE.

DANCE Riverdance continues. See Tuesday.

FOOD/DRINK

GATHERINGS "Beans at the Barn," learn about Petersen Barn programs & enjo a chili & cornbread lunch, noon-2pm, Petersen Barn Community Center. 682-5521. \$1.

Public meeting of Citizen Planning Commission for the Whilamut Natural Area of Alton Baker Park, 6pm, Sloat Room, Atrium Bldg., 99 W. 10th. FREE.

WAND mtg. w/program: "New Year, New Opportunity, New Strategy," 7pm, Womenspace, 1577 Pearl. 338-8605. FREE.

LITERARY ARTS Mid-Valley Willamette Writers speakers series: "The Art of Being Invisible: A Case Study in Ghostwriting & Collaboration," presentation by Sally-Jo Bowman, 6:30pm, Baker Bldg., 975 High St. \$10, \$5 stu., FREE members.

MUSIC Members of Oregon Mozart Players present "Viva la Francel!" 12:15pm, Hult Center lobby. FREE.

Lauren Mulderrig, 9pm, Cozmic Pizza. \$5.

Poisonous Birds, 9pm, Sam Bond's. 21+. \$5.

ON THE AIR "The Jefferson Exchange" discusses laws affecting renters and rental property owners, 9am & 9pm, KRVM 1280 AM.



Go on a mushroom walk at the Dorris Ranch Living History Museum Saturday

"New Dimensions" discusses "Authentic Social Change" w/Marisa Handler, 6:30pm, KLCC 89.7 FM.

THEATER Memory House continues. See Wednesday.

CORVALLIS events

Note - Continuation dates for out-of-town events are listed under the first day of the event.

THURSDAY, JAN. 3 Anne of Green Gables, 7:30pm today, tomorrow and Jan. 5; 2:30pm Jan. 6, Majestic Theatre. www.corvallis-communitytheatre.org \$10, \$9 stu., sr.

MONDAY, JAN. 7 Coin Club mtg., 7pm, Corvallis Senior Center. FREE.

TUESDAY, JAN. 8 Memory Loss support groups, 1:30pm, Corvallis Senior Center. 791-9057. FREE.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 9 Grief support group, 2pm, Corvallis Senior Center. 758-1088. FREE.

THURSDAY, JAN. 10 Music a la Carte: The Severin Sisters, noon, MU, OSU. FREE.

"Lessons of Leadership: Bold Bets and Back to Basics," lecture by Ursula M. Burns, president of Xerox Corporation, 6pm, LaSells Stewart Center, OSU. FREE.

ON THE road

THURSDAY, JAN. 3 Boy Eats Drum Machine, Siberian, Day of Lions, 9pm, Doug Fir Lounge, PDX. 21+. \$8.

FRIDAY, JAN. 4 River City Bluegrass Festival, daily today, tomorrow and Jan. 6, Oregon Convention Center, PDX. www.rivercitybluegrass.com

SATURDAY, JAN. 5 Horse Feathers, The Botticelli, 7pm & 10pm, Mississippi Studios, PDX. \$12.

ATTN: OPPORTUNITIES

You can drop off new pajamas at any Sleep County USA location in Oregon for their Pajama Drive for Foster Kids, through Feb. 17. www.sleepcountry.com

Auditions for OSU Theatre's play, Street Theater, will be held at 7pm Jan. 14 and 15 at OSU's Lab Theater. Actors needed for 14 parts. abebabb@yahoo.com

Anger Management classes are offered for parents at 6pm Wednesdays Jan. 9 through March 19. Class fee is on sliding scale. 344-0620.

In Accord Community Choir is accepting new members through January. No auditions required. Rehearsals are 7pm Tuesdays at Mennonite Church, 3590 W. 18th. 342-6881.

Applicants are sought for the City of Springfield's Arts Commission. 726-2237. Deadline is 5pm Friday, Jan. 4.



Johanna Mitchell reads the stars of aught eight at Tsunami Books Sunday

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Apply for enrollment by attending a required prospective parent information meeting. No sign-up is necessary.

January 11, Fri.	9 am	The Village School
January 24, Thurs.	6 pm	2855 Lincoln St.
January 29, Tues.	8:45 am	Phone: 345-7285
February 8, Fri.	10:30 am	E-mail: village@4j.lane.edu
February 11, Mon.	12 noon	www.eugenevillageschool.org
February 19, Tues.	6 pm	<i>The Village School maintains an enrollment process independent of 4J, and is not included in the 4J School Choice. The Village School's lottery is separate from 4J.</i>

The Village School Lottery will be held February 28, 2008

art IN THE galleries

Heceta Head, Guiding Light
and other watercolors by
Ann Simas are on display at
the County Courthouse
through Jan. 28



All exhibits free unless otherwise noted.

OPENING

Emerald Art Center

"Plein-aire Painters of Eugene-Springfield," group show; paintings by Mark & Susan Dodge; "Origins, Mapping, and the Game of Life," by Carol Plaia; sculptures by Sally LaMarche, through Feb. 1. "Fall Show '07" student exhibit, through Jan. 10. 11am-4pm Tu-Sa. 500 Main Street, Spfd.

Florence Event Center Galleries

"Heartfelt Portrayal of Nature," oil paintings by Keith Russett; paper sculptures & photography by Karen Nichols, through Jan. 31. Multi-style work by Morgan Johnson, through Feb. 28. 9am-5pm M-F and by appointment and during events. 715 Quince St., Florence.

Karin Clarke Gallery Paintings, drawings, prints & sculptures by Jan Zach, through Feb. 5. An opening is 3:30pm Saturday. 10am-5:30pm Tu-Sa. 760 Willamette.

Public Service Bldg./County Courthouse

Watercolors by Ann Simas and Natalie Olmos, through Jan. 28. 7am-6pm M-F. 125 E. 8th Ave.

Tevina Gallery Work by Joyce Findley, through Jan. 31. 2pm-5pm W; 3pm-5pm F, and by appt. 517-3237. 228 Main St., Spfd.

WOW Hall Work by Diana Kurzka, through Jan. 31. Noon-6pm M-F. WOW Hall, 291 W. 8th.

CONTINUING

Art of Glass Paintings by Charlie Meckel, through Jan. 24. 9am-5:30pm M-F; 9am-4pm Sa. 790 Blair.

Barnes & Noble Photography by Emerald Photographic Society members, through Jan. 31. 9am-10pm daily. 1163 Valley River Center.

Café Soriah Fiber paintings by Sandra McMorris Johnson, through Jan. 15. 11am-2pm M-F, 5pm-10pm Su-Th, 5pm-11pm F-Sa. 384 W 13th.

Espresso PRN West Portrait photography by Claudia Kelley, through Feb. 10. PeaceHealth Medical Group annex, 1162 Willamette.

Espresso PRN East Pastel drawings by Mike Dudley, through Feb. 10. Sacred Heart Medical Center, 3rd floor, 1255 Hilyard St.

FireWorks Restaurant Pastels & oil paintings by Frances Stilwell, ongoing. 11:30pm-2:30pm & 5pm-9:30pm M-Sa; 10am-2:30pm Su. 1115 SE 3rd (Hwy 99W), Corvallis.

Imagine Wood furniture, jewelry boxes, game boards and pens by Urban Lumber, plus 20 other local artisans, through Jan. 31. 10am-7pm M-Sa; 10am-6pm Su. 296 E. 5th.

Island Park Art Gallery Prints by Susan Lowdermilk & Renee Manford, through Jan. 24. Willamalane Adult Activity Center, 215 W. C St., Spfd.

Jacobs Gallery "Four Visions: The Human Story," work by Germaine Bennett, Judith Nakhnikian, Janet Geib Pretti and Hoa-Lan Tran, through Jan. 5. Noon-4pm Tu-F; 11am-3pm Sa. Hult Center. 684-5635.

Lane County Historical Society & Museum "Snoopy as the World War I Flying Ace" exhibit, through Jan. 19. 10am-4pm Tu-Sa. 740 W. 13th. \$3, \$2 sr., \$.75 youth.

LaVerne Krause Gallery First-year MFA students group show, Jan. 7-11; Adv. Drawing class group show, Jan. 14-18; Graphic Design & Media group show, Jan. 22-25; Art in China class show, Jan. 28-Feb. 1; Mixed media group show, Feb. 4-15; work by grad students in the arts & administration program, Feb. 18-22; Ceramics group show, Feb. 25-29; Mixed media group show, March 3-7; Photography student group show, March 10-14; "Habitat," mixed media group show, March 17-21. 10am-6pm M-Th; 10am-3pm F. 101 Lawrence, UO.

Museum of Modern Malabon Art Rotating student artwork exhibit, ongoing. 8:15am-2:15pm M-F. Malabon Elementary School, 1380 Taney.

Museum of Natural & Cultural History "Rock Art: Ancient Images, New Views," works on paper by Allen Cox, through March 2. "The Flood Zone: Landscapes Sculpted by the Glacial Lake Missoula Floods," photography by Bill Woolston, through March 23. 11am-5pm W-Su. 1680 E. 15th. \$3, \$2 youths, sr.

Museum of Fine Art "Family Show," open exhibition of art about family, through Feb. 14. An opening is 6pm Friday. 10:30am-7pm M-F; 1pm-7pm Sa. 537 Willamette.

Opus6IX "Confronting the Canvas," paintings by Anne Teigen, through Jan. 13. 10am-6pm Tu-Th & Sa, 10am-8pm F, 11am-4pm Su. 22 W. 7th.

Ratatouille Bistro-Café Photography by Annie Frantzeskos, through Jan. 21. 11am-2pm Tu-F; 5pm-9pm W-Sa; 10am-4pm Sa-Su. 1530 Willamette.

Tamarack Wellness Center Work by seven photographers, through Jan. 25. 9am-5:30pm M-F; 9:30am-noon Sa. 3575 Donald St.

Wandering Goat Photography by Tim Giraudier, through Jan. 24. 7am-11pm M-F, 9am-11pm Sa, 9am-9pm Su. 268 Madison.

White Lotus Gallery Work by Jon Jay Cruson, Mary Hindman, Eric Petersen, Nancy Pobanz and Tanaka Ryohei, through Jan. 5. 10am-5:30pm Tu-Sa. 767 Willamette.



The scoundrel meets the beauty queen

Legal Eagle

The vision of rogue Congressman Charlie Wilson

CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR: Directed by Mike Nichols. Written by Aaron Sorkin. Cinematography, Stephen Goldblatt. Music, James Newton Howard. Starring Tom Hanks, Philip Seymour Hoffman and Amy Adams. Universal Pictures, 2007. R. 97 minutes. ★★★★☆

Early in *Charlie Wilson's War*, a speaker intones that without Charlie Wilson, history "would be largely and sadly different." Whether history would be largely different without Wilson — a U.S. congressman from Texas for 25 years — is debatable but probably accurate, but the reference to sadness caught my attention. Wilson, a buoyant rascal, elevated revelry to an art form, so whether history would have been gloomier without him is beyond a

If you enjoyed *The West Wing*, the walking-and-talking political drama about a fictional liberal administration you'll be right at home with *Charlie Wilson's War*

shadow of a doubt. What makes the story of *Charlie Wilson's War* so irresistible is how a scoundrel and hard-drinking womanizer like Wilson (Tom Hanks) stumbles into the crossroads of history and, once there, has the good sense to stand his ground. What makes *Charlie Wilson's War* one of the year's best films is how artfully the screenplay plays Wilson's weaknesses into strengths.

If you enjoyed *The West Wing*, the walking-and-talking political drama about a fictional liberal administration, you'll be right at home with *Charlie Wilson's War*. They share the same writer, Aaron Sorkin (who also created *Sports Night*), and more importantly, they share Sorkin's intellectual curiosity and gift for verbal dynamite. Sorkin has always had high ideals, but he's been easy to dismiss

as high-minded and tweedy because those ideals are often pouring out of the mouths of refined elites. Not in *Charlie Wilson's War*. Sorkin has found the perfect foil not only in Wilson, a coarse philanderer, but in Gus Avrakotos (Philip Seymour Hoffman), Wilson's brilliant but irritable contact at the CIA for whom the term coarse is a gross understatement. Wilson is a man for whom business tends to interfere with pleasure, if not multiple pleasures; Avrakotos knows no pleasure we can see, save one: blowing the Soviets out of Afghanistan.

Completing the trio is Joanne Herring (Julia Roberts), the Houston socialite and former beauty queen who inspires Wilson to look into Afghanistan. (Actually, the trio is a quartet if Wilson's sweet, moral assistant, Bonnie Bach, is included. Amy Adams is sensational in this small but sturdy role.) According to Herring, the place to see Afghanistan is Pakistan, where Wilson encounters three million Afghan refugees. Those who haven't died wait to be martyred. Wilson discovers that Afghan rebels are using rifles and mortars against the Russians — essentially, sticks and rocks — while the Russians are sailing overhead in state of the art, rocket-equipped helicopters. What the rebels need are heat-seeking Stinger missiles; Wilson serves on the subcommittee that can make those missiles a reality. Only politics — personal, national and global — stands in Wilson's way.

Charlie Wilson's War is a lightly drawn, ideas-driven satire of an almost unbelievable episode in American politics. It isn't deep, nor is it what I would call a closely observed film. The film is talky and a little humid at the outset, but as each person enlisted by Avrakotos seems progressively more clever, so does the film become more enjoyable with each passing sequence. The performances are among the best this year, particularly by Hanks and Hoffman, whose easy but alert rapport should earn them many nominations. The tone of *Charlie Wilson's War* is sometimes inconsistent, but the message surely is not: Afghanistan was pried from the Soviets' grip by the aid of a most unlikely hero only to fall under Taliban control when we neglected to win the peace. It remains a victory that was profoundly incomplete. **CW**

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HITMAN R [12:05] 2:20, 4:45, 7:20, 9:40	3:10 TO YUMA R [12:50] 2:40, 7:05, 9:50
BEETLEJUICE PG [1:15, 12:40] 2:10, 2:55, 4:30, 5:15, 6:50, 7:35, 9:15, 10:00	UNDERDOG PG [12:20] 2:30, 4:40
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Giselle (Amy Adams) discovers a whole new world

Magic Well

Taking a cosmic tumble

ENCHANTED: Directed by Kevin Lima. Written by Bill Kelly. Songs by Alan Menken and Stephen Schwartz; score by Alan Menken. Starring Amy Adams, Patrick Dempsey, James Marsden, Susan Sarandon, Timothy Spall, Rachel Covey and Idina Menzel. Walt Disney Pictures, 2007. PG. 107 minutes. ★★★★☆

Even before I saw *Enchanted*, I had the film's centerpiece musical number, "That's How You Know," stuck firmly in my head. But watching it on

YouTube has nothing on seeing it in the theater. Now, I go to sleep with the song running 'round my head like a toy train on a circular track, and I wake up with it still spinning. I feel about this song rather like I do about the movie in which it appears: On the one hand, its sugar-bright perkiness is tempered with some sweet notions about the realities of love and life — chiefly that one's love ought not be taken for granted. But on the other hand, the girl is singing about how it's the boy's re-

sponsibility to prove his love, and it's still all about finding your special someone.

But happily ever after does get a bit of makeover in the hands of screenwriter Bill Kelly (who also — oh, no! — wrote the stinker *Premonition*) and *Tarzan* director Kevin Lima. *Enchanted* takes some of the classic bits of Disney's fairy-tale films — the handsome prince, the instant love, the woodland animal friends — and makes them into the assumed reality of the film's animated land, Andalasia. When we meet Giselle (Amy Adams), she's singing to a chorus of critters about how she's dreamt of a kiss from her true love, who'll doubtless be along soon. That's all it takes in this world: You kiss the right person, you're golden. But Andalasia also has rather backward inheritance rules: If the prince marries, Queen Narissa (Susan Sarandon) loses the throne, which she's not happy about. There will be no youthful, spunky princess for Prince Edward (James Marsden). A little shove into a magical well will take care of that.

Oh, what a well. Giselle finds herself, after a stunning fall through some sort of cosmos, in New York City at its hustling, bustling best. There, she meets Robert (Patrick Dempsey) and his princess-loving daughter Morgan (Rachel Covey), who, in one of those totally un-New York turns, take in the possibly batty Giselle. Over a few days, these folks all take turns teaching each other things. Giselle learns about dates and divorces; Robert learns about romance and the

incredible ways pigeons and cockroaches can clean your apartment if you just sing the right song to them.

Much of *Enchanted* is irresistible, and that's largely due to Amy Adams. Giselle is a mash-up of Disney lasses; she's got Ariel's flowing red hair, Snow White's forest friends and, eventually, a beast borrowed from *Sleeping Beauty* to face (the actresses who voiced or sang Ariel, Belle and Pocahontas, by the way, show up in small roles). She's also got the shallow pep that marks so many Disney characters, and the best thing about *Enchanted* is the gradual, graceful way this too-innocent sweetheart awakens to the possibilities and depths of life and love.

Adams, even when you just want her to snap out of her storybook sweetness, is a charmer, with her wide eyes and endlessly gesturing hands, and she sweeps the film along like the skirt of her massive, poufy white dress. But as self-possessed as she winds up — and what a refresher that is — in the home stretch, *Enchanted* can't resist some of the very happy ending standards (and other Disney clichés) that it sort of, kind of, maybe wanted to send up a little. The wicked, jealous old queen must be soundly defeated, and Giselle, no matter what she learns about dates and the real life of a single father, is going to get her Prince Charming, even if he's not a prince. At least she gets a career, too. And I can hope that maybe, every so often, she takes the initiative in showing him she loves him, no matter what that damn song says. **CW**

movie clips

OPENING OR RETURNING:

Atonement: Finally, Joe Wright's adaptation of Ian McEwan's exceptional — and exceptionally difficult to summarize — novel comes to town. *Atonement* takes place across years, as the actions of young Briony (Saoirse Ronan) have lengthy, unimagined consequences to the futures of her sister Cecilia (Keira Knightley) and their housekeeper's son, Robbie (James McAvoy), who's in love with Cecilia. R. 123 min. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15.

Blade Runner: The Final Cut: Ridley Scott used archival footage in this new version of the classic, influential sci-fi film, making the story of replicant hunter Deckard (Harrison Ford) darker yet again (following the previous director's cut). Not rated. 138 min. Bijou.

Dan in Real Life: Poor Dan (Steve Carell) is an advice columnist with a passel of daughters whose life is further complicated when he falls for his brother's girlfriend (Juliette Binoche). Also, the brother is played by Dane Cook. PG13. 99 min. Movies 12.

Dorothy Day: Don't Call Me a Saint: Documentary about the New York writer and social justice worker being considered by the Vatican for canonization. A young bohemian writer, Day converted to Catholicism and worked to help the hungry and homeless, cofounding the Catholic Worker with Peter Maurin. 7:30 pm Jan. 4. Cozmic Pizza. Donation.

Elephant: Gus Van Sant's film follows students on what seems like an ordinary school day until two boys unleash mayhem and murder. Van Sant's respect for his young actors and director's refusal to explain why school shootings happen make it exceptional. R. 81 min. 7:30 pm Jan. 5. Lorane Grange. \$7. sug. don.

Online archives.

Fred Claus: So what if Santa had a brother? Who happened to be the opposite of the saintly gift-giver: a repo man? That's the basic premise of this film, but the reason people will see it, I suspect, is for Paul Giamatti in a Santa suit getting in a fight with Vince Vaughn. PG. 116 min. Movies 12.

Juno: Director Jason Reitman's turned out another buzzworthy movie, this time with a screenplay by newcomer Diablo Cody. Ellen Page (who was outstanding in *Hard Candy*) plays a pregnant teenager dealing with herself, her future, her parents, the best friend who fathered the kid and the couple (Jennifer Garner and Jason Bateman) who wants to adopt it. "Hilarious and sweet-tempered, perceptive and surprisingly grounded," said the *Los Angeles Times*. PG13. 96 min. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15.

One Missed Call: Cell phones are scary, especially when they um, play voicemails for you? That are of your own death? Who thinks this stuff up? Didn't electronics-as-nightmare-devices already fail with *Pulse*? Ah well. Starring Shannyn Sossamon and Edward Burns. PG13. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15.

Stevie Wonder: A 1975 TV performance from Brussels and an unreleased live show from the early '70s play as part of the In-Concert Series. Bijou LateNite.

Films open the Friday following EW publication date unless otherwise noted. See archived reviews at www.eugeneweekly.com

CONTINUING:

Across the Universe: Julie Taymor (*Titus*, Broadway's *The Lion King*) puts her ambitious but unsatisfying spin on a love story built around Beatles songs, following a young man (Jim Sturgess) and the girl he falls for (Evan Rachel Wood) amid the tumult of the 1960s. PG13. 131 min. Movies 12. ★★★★☆ (10/18)

Alien vs. Predator: Requiem: Honest to goodness, I didn't even know they were making another AVP until I saw an ad last week. Directors Colin and Greg Strause did visual effects work on 300, which ought to be enough to get a certain audience into theaters to watch the nasty monsters fight. R. 86 min. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15.

Alvin and the Chipmunks: What's next? A live-action Care Bears movie starring Jason Lee? (He's in this and *Underdog*, for those not keeping track.) Those

wacky little creatures with the high-pitched voices will surely cause him some trouble in this newest bit of family fare. With, um, David Cross. Now I'm confused. PG. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15.

American Gangster: Denzel Washington and Russell Crowe face off in the story of 1970s driver turned drug lord Frank Lucas (Washington) and the cop investigating Lucas and his unexpected rise to power. Directed by Ridley Scott. R. 157 min. Movies 12. ★★★★☆ (11/8)

Bee Movie: Not much looks all that sweet about this animated comedy, in which Jerry Seinfeld voices a recent bee college graduate who learns, to his shock, that humans have been stealing bees' honey for ages and ages. With the voices of Renee Zellweger and Matthew Broderick. PG. 90 min. Movies 12.

Charlie Wilson's War: Mike Nichols directs from an Aaron Sorkin script this political ... drama? comedy? ... about a congressman (Tom Hanks) who combined forces with a CIA agent (Philip Seymour Hoffman) and a rich socialite (Julia Roberts) to direct a massive covert operation during the Cold War era. R. 97 min. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15. **See review this issue.**

Eagle vs. Shark: "Napoleon Dynamite" in New Zealand" is both too glib a description and not that far off for this overly quirky film about two peculiar characters who sort of fall in love — when one's not "training" to defeat his high school nemesis in single combat. Still, it's not without its charms. R. 87 min. Bijou LateNite. ★★★★☆ (12/20)

Enchanted: Beautiful princesses! Handsome princes! And ... midtown Manhattan? Amy Adams (*Junebug*, *James Marsters (X-Men)* and Patrick Dempsey (*Grey's Anatomy*)) star in this fairy tale in the real world, which follows Princess Giselle (Adams) after a wicked witch banishes her from her magical kingdom. Why does this Disney flick look so charming? PG. 107 min. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15. **See review this issue.**

Game Plan, The: The Rock stretches his dramatic skills as a football player faced

with a strange challenge: a little girl who claims to be his daughter. PG. Movies 12.

Golden Compass, The: An only slightly above average film — mostly on account of the fantastic casting — based on Philip Pullman's utterly brilliant novel. In a world much like our own, everyone has an animal companion who's part of themselves, and one little girl (newcomer Dakota Blue Richards) is the key to saving not just her own world, but countless others as well. With Daniel Craig, Nicole Kidman, Sam Elliott and Eva Green. PG13. 113 min. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15.

★★★★☆ (12/13)

Great Debaters, The: Denzel Washington (who also directs) stars in the (based-on-a-true) story of a debate coach in the segregated South who leads his Texas college team to a face-off with Harvard. PG13. 123 min. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15.

Hitman: Timothy Olyphant, go back to *Deadwood*! No kidding, kidding. But honestly, I'm not sure this videogame-based film about a professional assassin trying to find out who set him up (wait, does this remind anyone of Jason Bourne?) is the best place for you. R. 100 min. Movies 12.

I Am Legend: Will Smith does the all-by-his-lonesome thing in a New York City left not exactly empty after a manmade virus devastates the globe. During the day, he tries to find other survivors; at night, he tries to survive the creatures that are what's left of humanity. PG13. 100 min. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15.

★★★★☆ (12/20)

Margot at the Wedding: The latest film from Noah Baumbach (*The Squid and the Whale*, the underrated *Kicking and Screaming*) that's not the Will Ferrell movie of the same name) concerns the strained relationship between two sisters (Jennifer Jason Leigh and Nicole Kidman) and how it plays out as one's wedding looms. "This lacerating film ... pushes family drama right to the edge," says *The Los Angeles Times*. R. Bijou. ★★★★☆ (12/27)

Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium: This story about a magical toy store, its

owner (Dustin Hoffman) and the young shop employee who might inherit it (Natalie Portman) is written and directed by Zach Helm, who also wrote last year's *Stranger Than Fiction*. G. 94 min. Movies 12.

National Treasure: Book of Secrets: Nicolas Cage returns for more adventure and hijinks — something to do with the president's secret book (hey, this sounds like *Crooked Little Vein!*) and clearing his family's name; did great-great grandpa have something to do with Lincoln's assassination? With Helen Mirren. PG. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15.

★★★★☆ (12/27)

3:10 to Yuma: Russell Crowe and Christian Bale costar in this solid Western from director James Mangold (*Walk the Line*). Based on a short story by Elmore Leonard that was made into a film in 1957, the film follows a vicious outlaw (Crowe) and the Civil War vet (Bale) who's volunteered to get the thief to the train that'll take him to trial. R. 117 min. Movies 12.

★★★★☆ (9/13)

Underdog: Jason Lee voices the titular canine, who finds himself superpowered after an incident in the lab of mad scientist Simon Barsinister (Peter Dinklage). Bad guys have plots, but Underdog has a spaniel to impress! Oh, and the day to save. PG. 84 min. Movies 12.

Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story:

While I'm all for both John C. Reilly and the sending up of *Walk the Line*, this satirical rock 'n' roll faux-biopic appears, from the trailers, to be trying too hard. But it's directed by Jake Kasdan, whose *The Zero Effect* was shamefully overlooked. Hrm. R. 96 min. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15.

Water Horse: Legend of the Deep: It's nice to see Ben Chaplin (*The Truth About Cats and Dogs*) again, even if it's in this too-cute-but-still-charming children's film about a boy who finds a mysterious egg that turns into a mythical creature. Directed by Jay Russell (*My Dog Skip*). PG. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15.

We Own the Night: Family and loyalty clash in James Gray's film, in which nightclub manager Bobby (Joaquin Phoenix) hides his relationship to a NYC cop family while also keeping a distance from the gangster who operates out of his club. With Mark Wahlberg, Eva Mendes and Robert Duvall. R. 105 min. Movies 12.

Bravo!

guide to local performing arts



Nicola Benedetti

Threepenny Opera

Bill Cosby

Dark Relief

Stage lights demolish winter blahs

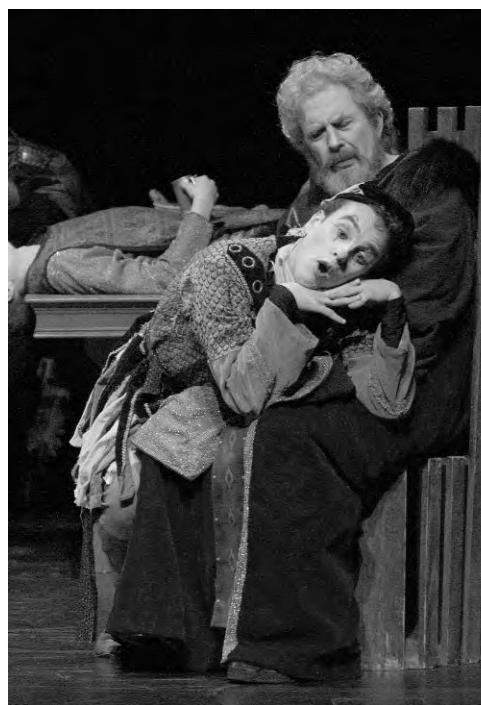
BY SUZI STEFFEN

True, this is a time when even the palest-skinned Eugenean gets vitamin-D deprived, when waking up before pink light cracks the sky around 8 am seems like a burden no one should have to bear, when holiday lights linger just to give pedestrians and bikers some beacons on their ways home from work.

But at the Actors Cabaret of Eugene, Willamette Rep, the Lord Leebrick, colleges and universities, warm light spills out around the stage doors. The winter/spring season heats up just in time to sustain us with the promise of weekend treats, both frothy and devastating. A potential bonus comes from the growing crop of local writers' productions.

ACE kicks off the season with a musical version of R-G theater critic Dorothy Velasco's *Pigs in Love*, which made its straight play debut at Willamette Rep's 2007 Readings in Rep. That opens Jan. 11 at the ACE Annex, but ACE aces Jim Roberts and Joe Zingo apparently never can have too much to do: *Ring of Fire: The Musical Songs of Johnny Cash* opens a week later on the ACE main stage. I'm pretty sure Zingo and Roberts have something remarkable up their sleeves for *Flight of the Lawnchair Man*, the story of a man flying with the power of 400 helium-balloons, opening in March.

Also opening Jan. 11 is Lord Leebrick's *Memory House*. This play will touch a raw nerve in high school seniors who must get their college apps in ASAP — not to mention parents who can't figure out how to connect rebellious teens with the sweet children they once were. During the play, as the teen works on her essay, the mom bakes a blueberry pie. Mmmm! The play comes off a bit more hopeful than the Leebrick's next show, *The*



LCC production of King Lear

Busy World Is Hushed, opening March 14. In the gorgeously layered *Busy World*, three brilliant people wrestle with the clash of different kinds of love, faith and grief.

Speaking of the peculiar family mix of love and grief, Willamette Rep takes on David Auburn's moving (and famous) *Proof*, a tale of mental illness, death, sibling rivalry and recovery, starting Feb. 6. And both the WillRep and the Leebrick collaborate with the UO in its "orphan season." The Rep welcomes a huge cast with Irish playwright John O'Keeffe's 18th-century farce *Wild Oats*, opening April 2, and UO theater department chair John Schmor rewrites the best of the Bard in *Or Not to Be*, a zombie-Hamlet combo that opens at the Leebrick May 9. And the Rep closes its season, as usual, with the informal, fascinating Readings in Rep for three days starting May 16.

The UO puts on two smaller productions at the Arena Theatre: *4:48 Psychosis*, a poetic look at madness from the inside, opening Feb. 6; and *Lotus Lessons*, a magical contemporary identity tale, opening May 21.

And at LCC, two shows continue the season that began with the massive *King Lear* and continued with the also gargantuan production of *Threepenny Opera*. Things calm down a bit with Michael Weller's *Buying Time*, a play about the clash of environmentalism and capitalism, ethics and material wealth, in a law firm; that opens Feb. 1 at the Blue Door Theatre. In April, the Student Production Association mounts an original play from an LCC workshop with Johnny Ormsbee's *A Soft Kiss for Samuel*.

If you want to travel over those rainy roads, Cottage Grove's Cottage Theatre features wonderfully goofy humor in *Pink Panther Strikes Again*, opening Feb. 1, and yet another local world premiere (that's three in one Eugene-area season) with Jim Curtiss and David Work's *First Impressions*, opening Feb. 29. *Chicago* opens in April and *Harvey* in June. Corvallis

Community Theatre also presents *Harvey*, opening Feb. 15, and the hopefully awesome *Reefer Madness: The Musical*, opening May 16 (you know Eugeneans are going to this one). OSU continues its season with *All My Sons*, opening Feb. 7, and presents the run-up to the Stonewall Riots with *Street Theatre*, opening March 6, before (count 'em, four!) a world premiere of John Frohnmyer's *Spin* in May.

EW

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Feb. 1-16, 2008



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April 4-26, 2008



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Senior/Student discounts and group ticket rates available.



Music Springing Up

Highlights of the season

BY BRETT CAMPBELL

As usual, the best places to find interesting music are the University of Oregon and The Shedd. The university's Feb. 3 Vanguard Series concert brings back New York's irrepressible young Fireworks ensemble to play music by its leader, UO alum Brian Coughlin, UO prof Robert Kyr and a rockin' version of Stravinsky's Rite of Spring. And Feb. 29, the fabulous early music vocal ensemble Tapestry comes to town, joining its leader, UO alum Laurie Monahan, who's teaching at the school this year.

Also firmly recommended: the January chamber music series concert featuring outstanding performers in music from Mozart to one of today's leading composers, Chen Yi.

Highlights of the Shedd's typically wide-ranging assortment of riches include Cajun masters Beausoleil Jan. 22, adventurous jazz-rock trio the Bad Plus Feb. 14, the wild hip-hop-meets-Eastern European groove of Balkan Beat Box on March 4, jazz legends Dave Brubeck and



Cajun masters Beausoleil (at top) Ramsey Lewis and Dave Brubeck at the Shedd

Ramsey Lewis on April 27, Broadway star Audra McDonald on May 28 and one of today's finest jazz stars, the ambitious yet accessible pianist composer Brad Mehldau and his trio June 5. The Shedd also brings back its engaging Jazz Party March 7-9.

The Eugene Symphony finally rediscovers the 20th century this spring and even gives a peek into the 21st. The January concert presents some of American music's greatest hits by Gershwin, Copland and Barber along with a more recent work by Dominick Argento. Best of all, the February show brings the ESO's much admired composer in residence, Roberto Sierra, for two of his works, one featuring the magnificent jazz tenor saxman James Carter in the sea-

son's most highly recommended concert. (Prokofiev's powerful *Romeo & Juliet* is, for once, not the newest work on the program.)

The Oregon Mozart Players bring us a fine program of French works, headed by Ravel's sublime masterpieces, *Mother Goose* and Mozart's "Paris" symphony Jan. 19-20. In March's equally recommended show, the chamber orchestra performs a pair of sparkling rediscoveries: Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante for winds and Haydn's C major Cello Concerto along with — bravo! — a new tone poem by a local composer, the UO's David Crumb. The Eugene Concert Choir offers a pair of enchanting April concerts: The April 4-5 show featuring music from the Renaissance to today, and rarely heard Eastern European sacred works, including an American premiere, on April 26.

In fact, winter and spring bring plenty more attractions for fans of the human voice, including vocal treats like Minnesota's acclaimed St. Olaf Choir at the Hult Center Feb. 1, the UO women's a cappella ensemble Divisi hosting other collegiate a cappella choirs Feb. 16, and South Africa's legendary Ladysmith Black Mambazo at the McDonald Theatre March 15. **CW**



Garth Fagan Dance Company

DANCE

Dance Theatre of Oregon

689-5189 • www.dtdance.org
Feb. 1-2 *Jungle Book* (Hult Center)

Elsinore Theatre, Salem

503-375-3574 •
www.elsinoretheatre.com
Feb. 15 Rainbow Dance Theatre: *One Village, Many Tribes*
April 7 Forever Tango

Eugene Ballet Company

485-3992 • www.eugeneballet.org
Tickets: 682-5000
Performances at the Hult Center
Feb. 23-24 *Little Tricker the Squirrel Meets Big Double the Bear*
April 19-20 *Balanchine!*

Hult Center

682-5000 • www.hultcenter.org
Jan. 8-12 Riverdance
Jan. 26 Garth Fagan Dance
Feb. 8 Dance for a Reason
March 1 Phenomenon Hip Hop Co.'s *Alter Ego*
March 12 4-ISH
March 13 Detail Dance Co.'s *Cirque*
May 10 TAP KIDS
May 27-28 STOMP

Lane Community College Dance Department

www.lanec.edu • Tickets: 463-5202
Performances at Performance Hall
Feb. 28-March 1 *Collaborations*
April 25-26 Spring Dance Concert
May 23-24 *The Works* Student Dance Concert

Sparkplug Dance

www.sparkplugdance.org • 689-3233
Performance at Hilyard Community Ctr
March 16 The Gift of Dance

UO Dance Department

music.uoregon.edu
Performances at Dougherty Dance Theatre
Feb. 14-16 Faculty Dance Concert
March 12 Dance Quarterly
March 14 Winter Loft

MUSIC

Arts Umbrella Youth Orchestras

484-0473 • www.artumbrellausa.org
Performances at South Eugene High School
Feb. 26 Eugene Youth Symphony Symphonic Safari
May 20 String Academy, Encore Strings, Eugene Little Symphony Spring Concert
May 21 Eugene Junior Orchestra Spring Concert
May 22 Eugene Youth Symphony Spring Concert

Chamber Music Corvallis

www.violins.org • Tickets: 757-0902
Performances at LaSells Stewart Center, OSU
Jan. 30 Schubert Ensemble of London
Feb. 27 Mandelring Quartet w/Robert Plane
April 16 Trio con Brio
May 6 Euclid Quartet

May 4 Salem Concert Band
May 10 Salem Pops Orchestra
May 17 Festival Chorale Oregon

Eugene Concert Choir

687-6865 •
www.eugeneconcertchoir.org o Tickets: 682-5000
Performances at the Hult Center unless noted
March 8 Broadway for Kids
March 9 Best of Broadway
April 4 Renaissance & Awakenings (Jaqua Concert Hall)
April 5 Renaissance & Awakenings (Wildish Theater)
April 26 Voices of Eastern Europe

Eugene Opera

485-3985 • www.eugeneopera.com o Tickets: 682-5000
Performances at the Hult Center
Feb. 29 & March 2 *Madama Butterfly*

Eugene Symphony

www.eugenessymphony.org • Tickets: 682-500
Performances at the Hult Center
Jan. 24 Argento, Valentino Dances; Barber, Concerto for Violin; Copland, Appalachian Spring; Gershwin, American in Paris (w/Stefan Jackiw, violin, and William Schimmel, accordion)
Feb. 14 Romeo & Juliet: Sierra, Fandangos & Concerto for Saxophones (w/James Carter, saxophone); Prokofiev, *Romeo & Juliet*
March 20 Khachaturian, Masquerade Suite; Schubert, Symphony No. 8, *Unfinished*; Beethoven, Concerto for Piano No. 5, *Emperor* (w/Alastair Willis, guest conductor, and Valentina Lisitsa, piano)
May 15 Season Finale: Buxtehude/arr. Chavez, Chaconne in E Major; Bach, Suite No. 2 in B Minor; Bruckner, Symphony No. 7 in E Major

Special events for subscribers:
April 20 An Evening with Nicola Benedetti, violin

Florence Events Center

997-1994 • www.eventcenter.org
Jan. 27 Newport Symphony Orchestra
Feb. 23 An Evening with Groucho
March 3 SSD All Choir Concert
March 28 The Alley Cats, Doo-Wop
April 25 Borealis String Quartet
May 4 Community Choir of Florence
May 9 Emerald City Jazz Kings
May 11 Oregon Coast Chamber Orchestra
May 23 Oregon Mozart Players

Heart of the Valley Children's Choir, Corvallis

www.hvcchoir.com
Performances at LaSells Stewart Center, OSU
March 15 Spring Concert
June 1 Elizabeth Powell Scholarship Concert

Hult Center

www.hultcenter.org • Tickets: 682-5000
Jan. 18 The Slavic Wonderland
Feb. 1 St. Olaf Choir
March 5 Jigu! Thunder Drums of China
March 22 Peru Negro
April 27 Dave Brubeck & Ramsey Lewis

Lane Community College
www.lancc.edu • Tickets: 463-5202
Performances at Performance Hall unless noted
Jan. 18 & 19 Oregon Jazz Festival Concerts
Feb. 21 Faculty Music Concert
March 6-14 Winter Ensemble Concerts
May 29-June 6 Spring Ensemble Concerts

LaSells Stewart Center, Corvallis

737-2402 •
oregonstate.edu/lasells/events.html
Feb. 3 Emerald City Jazz Kings: "Well, Git It!"
Feb. 6 Corvallis-OSU Symphony
April 15 Corvallis-OSU Symphony
May 1 Emerald City Jazz Kings: "Blowin' Up A Storm!"
May 20 Corvallis-OSU Symphony

Newport Symphony Orchestra

265-ARTS • www.baymusic.org
Performances at Newport Performing Arts Center
Jan. 26 Rimsky-Korsakov, Ravel, Debussy
April 12 Rautavaara, Handel, Beethoven

Oregon Mozart Players

345-6648 • www.oregonmozartplayers.org • Tickets: 682-5000
Performances at the Hult Center unless noted
Jan. 19 French Roast: Fauré, Pavane Op. 50; Debussy, Danses sacrée et profane; Mozart, Symphony No. 31, K. 297; Ravel, Ma Mère l'Oye (complete ballet music)
Jan. 21 French Roast (Beall Hall)
March 15-16 Vestiges, w/Nathaniel Rosen, cello: David Crumb, Vestiges of a Distant Time; Haydn, Concerto for Violoncello in C, Hob. VII:1; Mozart, Sinfonia Concertante, K. 297b
May 3 Mozart's Influence, w/Yuri Rozum, piano: Prokofiev, Classical Symphony; Beethoven, Piano Concerto No. 2 in B-flat major, Op. 19; Mozart, Mass in C major, K. 167
May 4 Mozart's Influence (Jaqua Concert Hall)

Salem Chamber Orchestra

www.open.org/~scomusic
Performances at Hudson Hall, Willamette University, unless noted
Feb. 17 Family Concert: Tripp/Kleinsinger; Bach
March 15-16 Masterworks III: Mozart; Fauré

April 26-27 Masterworks IV: Mendelssohn, Rossini, Mascagni, Puccini

Salem Pops Orchestra

www.salem.popsoorchestra.org
Performances at the Elsinore Theatre
March 8 A Pops Evening with Mark Kershner
May 10 Pops New Discoveries

Shedd Institute

Info: 687-6526 • Tickets: 434-7000
Performances at the Jacqua Concert Hall at the Shedd
Jan. 22 BeauSoleil
Jan. 31-Feb. 8 Emerald City Jazz Kings: "Well, Git It!"
Feb. 2 Chris Smither
Feb. 9 Brazilian Guitar Festival
Feb. 14 The Bad Plus
Feb. 20 Carolina Chocolate Drops
March 18 Gabriela Montero
March 20 Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas
April 3 Gravitas Quartet

UO Music

music.uoregon.edu
Performances at Beall Hall
Jan. 17 Oregon String Trio
Jan. 20 Concerto-Aria Competition
Jan. 28 Chinese Children's Choir & Young Women's Chorus
Jan. 29 Music of Franz Liszt
Jan. 31 America's Dream Chamber Artists
Feb. 3 University Symphony
Feb. 3 Fireworks
Feb. 6 Quadre: The Voice of Four Horns
Feb. 7 Amy Goeser Kolb, oboe & Laura Kennedy, piano
Feb. 10 Oregon Wind Ensemble
Feb. 11 Alexandre Dossin, piano
Feb. 12 Poetry in Song
Feb. 14 University Singers & Chamber Choir
Feb. 17 Douglas Webster, baritone & Victor Steinhardt, piano
Feb. 19 Oregon Composers Forum
Feb. 21 Lydia Van Drel, horn
Feb. 24 Kathryn Luckenberg, violin & David Riley, piano
Feb. 26 Pacific Rim Gamelan
Feb. 27 Eugene Contemporary Chamber Ensemble
Feb. 28 Oregon Symphonic Band
Feb. 29 Tapestry
March 2 Oregon Wind Ensemble
March 4 Campus Band & Orchestra
March 5 Oregon Jazz Ensemble & Lab Bands
March 6 Mozart Piano Quartet
March 7 Traditional Music of Ireland
March 8 Oregon Percussion Ensemble
March 10 All That Brass!
March 11 Chamber Music on Campus
March 13 Repertoire Singers & Concert Choir
March 16 University Gospel Ensembles

The Bad Plus



Performances elsewhere:
 Feb. 4 Jazz Lab Bands II & III
 Feb. 10 Eugene Contemporary Chamber Ensemble (Collier House)
 Feb. 13 Flute Class Recital (163 Music)
 Feb. 15 The Jazz Café (178 Music)
 Feb. 22 The Jazz Café (178 Music)
 March 1 Future Music Oregon (163 Music)
 March 7 A Little Knight Music (Knight Library)
 March 14 Collegium Musicum (Collier House)
 March 16 UO Opera Theater & UO Symphony (EMU Ballroom)
 March 16 University Percussion Ensemble (163 Music)

Willamette Valley Concert Band, Albany

www.wvcb.info
 March 16 Russian Music Concert (Russell Tripp Performance Center, LBCC)
 May 22 Sousa Memorial Day Concert (Capital Manor, Salem)
 May 26 Sousa Memorial Day Concert (LaSells Stewart Center, OSU)

THEATER

Actors Cabaret of Eugene

683-4368 • www.actorscabaret.org
 Performances at ACE theater and the Hult Center unless noted
 Jan. 11-20 *Pigs in Love* (at the Annex)
 Jan. 18-Feb. 23 *Ring of Fire: The Johnny Cash Musical Show*
 March 7-29 *The Flight of the Lawn Chair Man*
 April 11-May 10 *Breaking Up Is Hard To Do*
 June 20-July 26 *Hair*

ACE Junior Program

683-4368 • www.actorscabaret.org
 Performances in the Annex theater unless noted
 July 24-27 *Footloose!*

Albany Civic Theater

928-4603 • www.albancivic.org
 Jan. 11-19 *Dinner with Friends*

Feb. 15-March 8 *Hello, Dolly*
 March 28-April 5 *The Drawer Boy*
 April 25-May 10 *The Diary of Anne Frank*
 May 30-June 14 *Fawlty Towers*
 June 20-21 *The Last Five Years*
 July 11-19 *Nickel and Dimed*
 Aug. 8-23 *The Compleat Works of Wilm Shkspere (Abridged)*

Corvallis Community Theatre

www.corvalliscommunitytheatre.org • Tickets: 738-7469
 Performances at the Majestic Theatre
 Dec. 28-Jan. 6 *Anne of Green Gables*
 Feb. 15-24 *Harvey*
 May 16-June 1 *Reefer Madness*
 Aug. 8-17 *Knock 'Em Dead*

Cottage Theatre, Cottage Grove

942-8001 • www.cottagetheatre.org
 Tickets 942-9195
 Feb. 1-16 *The Pink Panther Strikes Again*
 April 4-26 *Chicago*
 June 13-28 *Harvey*
 Aug. 1-17 *Forever Plaid*

Elsinore Theatre, Salem

503-375-3574 • www.elsinoretheatre.com
 Jan. 20 *Peter Pan*
 Feb. 29 *Aesop's Fables*
 May 2 *Winnie the Pooh*

Florence Events Center

997-1994 • www.eventcenter.org
 April 19 Missoula Children's Theater
 May 29 LCC Dance Showcase

Hult Center

www.hultcenter.org • Tickets: 682-5000
 Jan. 13 Jeff Dunham, ventriloquist
 Feb. 9 Bill Cosby, comedian
 Feb. 15 Lisa Lampanelli, comedian
 Feb. 17 Moscow Circus
 March 5-9 *Menopause: The Musical*
 March 16 *Gypsy*
 April 23 Capitol Steps musical theater troupe
 April 29-May 4 *Mamma Mia*

Lane Community College

www.lancc.edu • Tickets: 463-5761
 Performances at the Blue Door Theatre
 Feb. 11-16 *Buying Time*
 March 15 Shakespeare Showcase
 April 4-12 *A Soft Kiss While Visiting Samuel*
 May 2-17 Spring Inspirations
 June 7 Shakespeare Showcase

Lord Leebrick Theatre

www.lordleebrick.com • Tickets: 465-1506
 Jan. 11-Feb. 2 *Memory House*
 March 14-April 6 *The Busy World is*

Feb. 17-Nov. 2 *The Clay Cart*
 April 15-Nov. 1 *The Further Adventures of Hedda Gabler*
 July 23-Nov. 1 *A View from the Bridge*

At the New Theatre:

Feb. 19-June 20 *Welcome Home, Jenny Sutter*
 March 26-Nov. 2 *Coriolanus*
 July 1-Nov. 2 *Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner*

At the Elizabethan Stage:

June 3-Oct. 10 *Othello*
 June 4-Oct. 11 *Our Town*
 June 5-Oct. 12 *The Comedy of Errors*

Riverdance



Hushed
 May 9-June 1 *Or Not To Be*

Oregon Shakespeare Festival

482-4331 • www.osfashland.org
At the Angus Bowmer Theatre:
 Feb. 15-Nov. 2 *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
 Feb. 16-July 6 *Fences*

OSU Theatre, Corvallis
 737-2853 • oregonstate.edu/dept/theatre

Performances at Main Stage Theatre
 Feb. 7-16 *All My Sons*
 May 8-17 *Spin*
 June 4-8 Original One-Act Festival

Performance at Lab Theatre
 March 6-9 Street Theatre

Pentacle Theatre, Salem
 503-485-4300 • www.pentacletheatre.org
 Jan. 25-Feb. 16 *The Sunshine Boys*
 March 7-29 *The Diviners*
 April 18-May 10 *Dorian: The Remarkable Mr. Gray*
 May 30-June 21 *Betty the Yeti*
 July 1-Aug. 2 *Doubt: A Parable*
 Aug. 22-Sept. 13 *Guys and Dolls*

University Theatre

346-4363 • darkwing.uoregon.edu/~theatre/
 April 2-20 *Wild Oats* (Willamette Rep/Hult Center)
 May 6-June 1 *Or Not To Be* (Lord Leebrick Theatre)

Performances at the Arena Theatre
 Feb. 6-16 *4:48 Psychosis*
 May 21-31 *Lotus Lessons*

Very Little Theatre

344-7751 • www.thevlit.com
 Jan. 18-Feb. 9 *Awake and Sing!*
 March 28-April 19 *On the Razzle*
 May 30 *The Memory of Water*
 Aug. 1 *The Grass Harp*

Wildish Community Theater

868-0869 • 630 Main Street, Springfield • www.wildishtheater.com
 Jan. 18-Feb. 2 *So Far From Shore* • Tix: 606-1125
 Feb. 22-24 *Seussical* (Rose Children's Theatre • Tix: 434-0444)
 March 13-15 *Wizard of Oz* (Upstart Crow Studios • Tix: 688-8260)
 March 16 Springfield Puppet Festival (Tix: 727-3766)

Willamette Repertory Theatre

343-9903 • willrep.ourwest.com
 Tickets: 682-5000
 Performances at the Hult Center
 Feb. 6-24 *Proof*
 April 2-20 *Wild Oats*
 May 16-18 Readings in Rep

Thursday, January 24 – 8:00 pm

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 Stefan Jackiw, Violin
 William Schimmel, Accordion

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THURSDAY JAN. 3

AXE & FIDDLE Trivia Night-7:30
THE CITY DJ Simy-10; 80s, techno, reggae
THE COOLER Karaoke-9:30
COUNTRYSIDE Mr. Wizard-8:45
DIABLO'S DJs Hot Teeth & Supa J-10
DOWNTOWN LOUNGE Self-Esteem Boat Willie, Parallel Minds, Reward System-10
DUCK INN Ben Coleman's Karaoke-9
EARL'S JUKE JOINT Karaoke Contest-7
ELDORADO Karaoke-9
GOODFELLAS Johnny Wilde Jam-9:30
HAPPY HOURS Karaoke w/Jim-8:30
JOGGER'S DJ Tino-10; Hip hop, R&B, dancehall
JOHN HENRY'S 80s Night w/Chris, Jen and John-10
LATITUDE 21 Scottie One Drop's Reggae-Hip Hop-Funk Jam-10
LUCKY'S The Purple Heart-10; Rock
MACENZI'S TOO Karaoke-7
OAK ST. SPEAKEASY Jazz Jam w/The Richardson Trio-8
THE OLD PAD Karaoke-9
OVERTIME GRILL West Side Blues Jam-8
PEABODY'S PUB Patrick & Giri-7:30; Acoustic rock
RED LION HOTEL Skip Jones & Byron Case-7

ROCK 'N' RODEO Ladies' Night w/Jon Michaels-8:30; Country, rock
SAM BOND'S Pine Box Boys-9; Punk, bluegrass, country
SPIRITS Normal Bean's Jam Night-9
TAP 'N' KEG Rising Phoenix-9; Hip hop
TAYLOR'S DJ Red Fox-10; hip hop
TERRITORIAL WINERY DJs Shawn & Charles Thump-8; House, 80s
VILLAGE GREEN Karaoke-7
WETLANDS Grateful Dead on DVD-10

FRIDAY JAN. 4

AXE & FIDDLE Pine Box Boys, Whopner County Country All-Stars, Sid & Fancy-8:30; Bluegrass, country
BLACK FOREST Hi-Fi Ramblers-10; Rockabilly, surf, post-punk
THE CITY DJ Simy-10; Hip hop revolution, top 40
CLUB 420 Karaoke-9
DIABLO'S DJ Supa J-10; All-request
DOWNTOWN LOUNGE Halie Loren, Suzanne Benordan-10; Indie, alt-pop
ELDORADO Karaoke-9
HAPPY HOURS The Alliance Party Band-9
INDIGO DISTRICT DJ Hoop Dreams & DJ Adam-10; Hip hop, electro
JOGGER'S Club Motion w/ DJ Ty-9:30; Hip hop, R&B & more
LABELLES Gus Russell-5:30
LUCKY'S The Slants-10; Rock
MAIN ST. SPFD Texas Hold'em-8

LABELLES Gus Russell-5:30
LUCKY'S Touch Force, Mayharpoon, The Soothsayers-10; Punk, rock
MULLIGAN'S PUB Placebo Effect-10
OAK ST. SPEAKEASY Olem Alves-6. Marika Schurray-9
THE O BAR Karaoke-9
OK TAVERN Lorrie's Karaoke-9
ROCK 'N' RODEO DJs Jon Michaels & Rob Reynolds-7:30; Country, rock, top 40
ROGUE BREWERY Mr. Bill's Trivia Show-8
SAM BOND'S The Soothsayers, The Ovulators, The Valient Arms-9:30; Rock
SAM'S PLACE Karaoke-8
TAYLOR'S DJ Prestine-10
VET'S CLUB BALLROOM DJ Mario-9:30; Salsa

OAK ST. SPEAKEASY Mark Hazzard-5:30.
Mark Hazzard & Friends-9
PAPA'S SOUL FOOD KITCHEN Brothers of Beat & Papa Soul-9; Old-school soul
ROCK 'N' RODEO DJ Rob Reynolds-7:30; Country, rock, top 40
SAM BOND'S Los Cumbiamberos-9:30; Cuban dance
TAP 'N' KEG Rising Phoenix-9:30; Retro mix
TAYLOR'S DJ Simy-10; Hip hop
TOMMY'S B&G Karaoke-9
WINESTYLES Bajuan Tea-7; Funk

SUNDAY JAN. 6

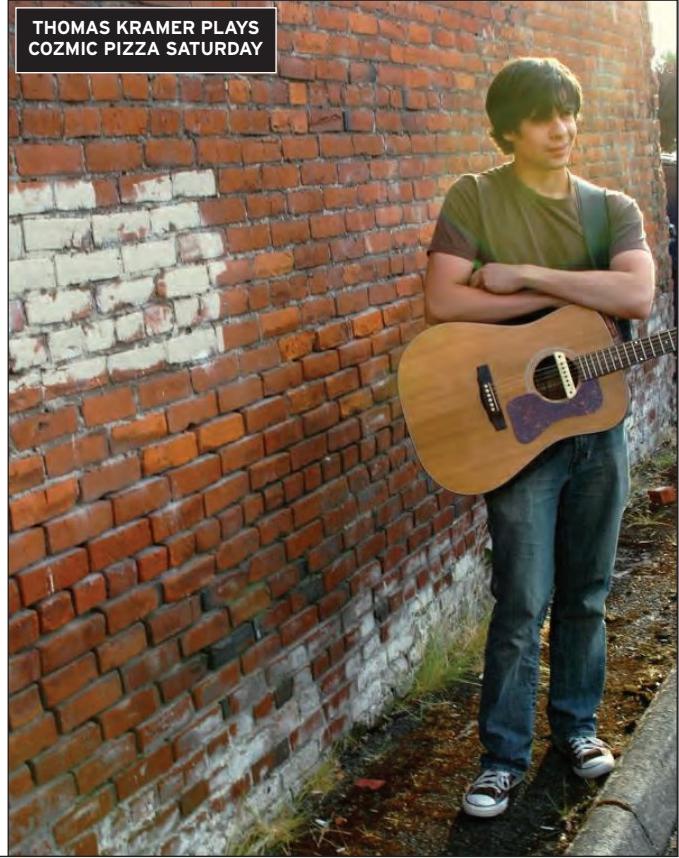
COUNTRY SIDE Karaoke w/Kim-9

COZMIC PIZZA Coyo-7
DOWNTOWN LOUNGE Karaoke-9
JOHN HENRY'S Broadway Revue-10; Burlesque
MAX'S Steve Ibach-8; Acoustic guitar
PEABODY'S PUB Open Mic-7
RODEO STEAKHOUSE Family Karaoke-5
SAM BOND'S Telepathic Dumpster, The Touchyfeeliacs-8:30; Jam
VILLAGE GREEN Christopher Klein & Teresa Martindale-6:30

MONDAY JAN. 7

AXE & FIDDLE DJ Richard Swift-8
BLACK FOREST Karaoke-9
COUNTRY SIDE Karaoke-9

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WINESTYLES SATURDAY



DIABLO'S Reels & Wheels films & DJs-10
DOWNTOWN LOUNGE Bingo-8
EARL'S JUKE JOINT Paul's Blues Jam-7
JOGGER'S Texas Hold'em-7
ROCK 'N' RODEO Texas Hold'em-6:30
SAM BOND'S Open Mic-8:30
WANDERING GOAT Boats!, Dissentary, Pirate Radio, Adrenaline Junkies, Internal Chaos, The F-Holes-7; Punk rock

TUESDAY JAN. 8

AXE & FIDDLE Open Mic-7; Benefit
BLACK FOREST Roosters Blues Jam-8
COUNTRY SIDE Karaoke w/Kim-9
DOWNTOWN LOUNGE Open Mic-9
EARL'S JUKE JOINT Everybody's Jam w/James Goddard-7

FOUR CORNERS HOPHOUSE Phenwick's Wang Dang Doodle-7:30; Blues jam
GOODFELLA'S Karaoke-9
HIGHLANDS PUB Bingo-6
JAZZ STATION Spirit of Jazz Jam-8
JOGGER'S Karaoke-9
JOHN HENRY'S Get Fresh Tuesdays-10; Hip hop
LATITUDE 21 DJ Tekneek-10; Hip hop
LUCKY'S Sam Hahn, Jesse Meade-10;
Acoustic blues
MACHO'S PIZZA Family-friendly Karaoke-7
MAX'S e. geek's Knowledge Knights-7:30
MC SHANE'S Tricycle Races-9
THE O BAR Karaoke-9
ROCK 'N' RODEO Texas Hold'em-6:30 iPod hip hop-9
SAM BOND'S Bluegrass jam-9

SAM'S PLACE Open Turntables-8
TABOO Phat Tuesday w/DJ Tekneek-10;
Zydeco, Cajun, Creole
TAYLOR'S Karaoke-9
VILLAGE GREEN Jay Schlotterbeck-7; Jazz
WETLANDS Texas Hold'em-6

WEDNESDAY JAN. 9

AXE & FIDDLE Bingo-7:30
COUNTRY SIDE QBN-9
DOWNTOWN LOUNGE Blues Jam-8
EARL'S JUKE JOINT Acoustic/electric jam w/Peter Giri-7
JOGGER'S DJ Tino-10; Hip hop, R&B, dancehall
JOHN HENRY'S DJ Kal El vs. DJ Tekneek-10;
Reggae vs. hip hop
LUCKY'S The Smile Ease-10; Indie
LUNA Jazz jam-9
MULLIGAN'S PUB Open mic-9
OAK ST. SPEAKEASY The Revolving Trio-8
PAPA'S SOUL FOOD KITCHEN Delta Blues Jam-9:30
QUACKERS Blues & Funk Jam-8:30
ROCK 'N' RODEO Karaoke w/Dan Henson-8
SAM BOND'S Lisa Ornstein & Andre Marchand-9; Acadian, traditional
SAM'S PLACE Karaoke-8
TAP 'N' KEG Karaoke w/Rising Phoenix Productions-8
TAYLOR'S DJ Simy-10; Jazzy house, hip hop, disco
VILLAGE GREEN Olem Alves-7:30
WANDERING GOAT P.A.W.N.S., III Gotten Gainz, Scrapyard Swag-7; Punk rock

CORVALLIS, ETC.

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FR The Dead Center, Walk the Plank-8

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SA Bill Lanham-8

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TH Open Mic-8
FR Three Fingered Jack-8; Celtic
SA Dread Jazz-8

FOX & FIRKIN
202 SW 1st St. • 753-8533
SA Jake Payne & Dixie Creek, The Deep Woods-10

MACENZI'S BAR & GRILL
262 Smith St., Harrisburg • 995-9116
FR Karaoke-9

PLATINUM NIGHT CLUB
126 SW 4th St. • 738-6996
TH DJ Hes-10
SA Comedy Night-8. DJ Big Brad-10; Hip hop
WE Wild West Wednesdays-9; Country hits



P.A.W.N.S. PLAYS WANDERING GOAT WEDNESDAY

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CLUB 420 420 Main St., Spfd.
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Planes, Trains and Clean Getaways

Ah, I said to myself when I got this week's assignment to write about **Lauren Mulderrig**, here's a name I haven't heard before. Not that I profess to have heard of every musician out there, certainly. But it's always a special challenge to write about a musician I've never heard or even heard of before.

After checking out Lauren Mulderrig, I realized that the reason I'd never heard of her before is because she's just getting heard outside of her Orange County, Calif., hometown for the first time. She's 17 and a high school senior, which explains the youthful photo on her MySpace page and the bone-shaking sincerity in her lyrics. Mulderrig explains that she's in an independent study program that allows her to take time off from school to pursue her music career. This is her first major tour with her producer and bandmate Alex Barnett.

Mulderrig's first album highlighted her as an acoustic singer/songwriter and brought her popularity in the OC. Her follow up, *Planes, Trains, and Clean Getaways*, has more of an edge, and also the oomph of a band behind her. A remake of "Anymore," a song from her first recording, *Stability*, displays the raw emotion of heartbreak and a wistful edge to her voice. The song benefits greatly from drums and a punchier rhythm, and if it's representative of what the rest of the album is like, it shows great songwriting promise. Mulderrig cites the music of Jenny Lewis & The Watson Twins as her major influence, and while she is no Lewis copycat, it's clear she's living on the same side of the country/indie and folk tracks, and it's certainly worth five bucks to see this breakout performer live.

Lauren Mulderrig plays at 9 pm Thursday, Jan. 10, at Cozmic Pizza. \$5 – *Vanessa Salvia*



Lauren Mulderrig

Smiling Made Easy

In the same way that Elliott Smith's moody ambience reflected the gray, rainy days of the Northwest, **Smile Ease**'s dreamy and hazy songs reflect the icy cold of Anchorage, Alaska.

The band formed in 2001 and has since functioned as a beam of light that melts away the bitter cold of a place known for its mountain ranges and thousands of glaciers. With influences including The Beatles, Radiohead, Built to Spill and The Decemberists, Smile Ease solidly plays danceable indie songs alongside the head-swaying ambience. The vocals are light, modest and sometimes unsure, but always perfectly situated above dreamy keyboards and guitars, dotted here and there with xylophone.

The Paris-based band Air created a beautifully moody and hazy soundtrack for the film *The Virgin Suicides*. The songs were dark, sexy and playful, and couldn't have been better suited to the film. But if another band could do the same, it would be Smile Ease. The band's debut album, released in December, flows seamlessly, with songs ranging from less than three to more than seven minutes long. The band's members fill the stage, each commanding attention, playing several different instruments, singing and contributing to the lush, romantic sound. While Smile Ease wants people to know that Anchorage is more than just icicles and igloos, the music suggests images of the landscape. Close your eyes, listen to the music and look for frozen lakes, white mountain peaks and fish emerging from holes in the ice. Smile Ease plays at 10 pm Wednesday, Jan. 9, at Luckey's. 21+ show. \$3-\$5. – *Amanda Burhop*

Smile Ease

Jake Payne and Dixie Creek

**Fare Thee Well**

Listening to country music can be sad, and listening to a talented band that is splitting up and moving on is very sad indeed. But, as many great songs tell us, things change, the open road calls and people have to follow their dreams, etc. etc. Besides, **Jake Payne and Dixie Creek** members Jake Payne, Kevin Van Walk and Scott Eastburn will carry on the roots-rock legacy they began in Corvallis when they make their way to Austin, Tex., later this month to explore the greenest pastures the U.S. has to offer in the world of alternative country. Eastburn sees the move as an exciting new beginning.

"It's pretty sad because we all get along pretty well [lead guitarist Xion Zoa and bassist Selena Goltra will remain in Oregon], but we are going to continue what we've been doing here. It's a bigger town, almost 1,500 venues. Every restaurant and coffee shop has live music. Our goal is to play professionally, and it's possible to do that here, but it requires a lot more traveling and more of a 'breaking in' period."

Payne has already scoped the Austin scene as a touring bass player for country singer Pauline Reese. It was a time in his life, says Eastburn, which helped him evaluate what he truly valued about his career and served as the inspiration for many of the tracks on their upcoming release, *What the Folk is Roots Music?*

"It is mostly songs that Jake wrote while touring. He moved back out here with the thought of wanting to do his own music. It's very folky with a touch of bluegrass. The mandolin, the stand up bass, the instrumentation adds a lot of different colors. We have enough material to record a second album, but that will be a lot more roots rock, Americana."

Although Payne and company are moving on, Eastburn hopes they will reunite to pick and strum at a few festivals this summer, and encourages fans new and old to come out and see their CD release and send off show with The Deep Woods Band at 10 pm Saturday, Jan. 5, at the Fox and Firkin in Corvallis. \$3.

– Adrienne van der Valk

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A Beautiful Night

Sipping into the New Year

I stared out my grimy office window, watching the drizzly drift of tiny flakes of snow mixed with rain, which froze as they hit the streets, turning pavement into a glistening mirror. On the sidewalks, post-holiday stragglers slipped and slid, clutching at air, anything. I rubbed the scruff on my chin, tugged at my glasses, let my paw buzz the thin stubble on my scalp. I was trying to keep the top of my head from flying off, and the way I felt had nothing to do with a close encounter with great poetry (sorry, Emily Dickinson).

Actually, I was just trying to shake free from an image: Our annual New Year's party, whole crew and assorted guests, house still festooned in Christmas frippery (Kat goes bonkers with lights and decorations), tables sagging with foodstuffs, glasses afroth in bubbles (testing, testing, onerous work),

We happen to think we can have good quality (flavor, balance, some complexity) and good value (\$\$).

clocks ticking down to midnight, Mole suddenly appears, round and pinkly cherubic, wearing a laurel wreath on his dome, red satin sash emblazoned with 2008 across the expanse of bare chest and belly, outfit finished with large-size Depends. He bounds across the room, hugging everyone in sight, lands in front of me, shouts "Happy New Year, Sleut," wraps me in his arms and plants a wet smack on my cheek. I'm not sure how much stemware was broken in the event.

Even now, I can't erase the scene, like a song I can't get out of my head. Wine, try to think wine:

OK, Ray splashed the party with swell bottles of bubbles: **Wolfberger Brut Rosé Crémant d'Alsace**. It was nice pale pink, smooth and delish, with swell raspberry notes. The term "crémant" means slightly lower carbonation, hence a bit creamier in the glass. Alsace is that region in the northeast corner of France which is either French, German or independent, depending on who won the latest war (currently French), so this is not Champagne, but it sure was satisfying, and a bargain at \$15.

Then we raised flutes of **Argyle Brut 1999 Knudsen Vineyard** (\$25), which took us up several notches: A blend of pinot noir (80 percent) and chardonnay (20 percent), color was pale but the flavors were round, toasty and rich, the bubbles tiny and active. Not much of this is left on the shelves (though the 2002, the next vintage, is very good), so smarties should watch for it, and snag all they can afford.

Kat sent out plates of light cheeses, cold meats, shrimp and crab, assorted breads and crackers. Now, let's be clear about two matters: One, good sparkling wines match well with a wide array of foods, and we could, in the spirit of celebration, keep pouring the bubbles and be confident of tickling noses

and palates, but we're also workin' here, so we transition to still wines; two, our continuing theme is affordability, wines for folks

with middlin' budgets — yes, there are better wines and, yes, they cost more and, yes again, there are gobs of wine writers in a host of websites and publications who'll gladly steer buyers to the top shelves. We happen to think we can have good quality (flavor, balance, some complexity) and good value (\$\$), so, that said, our appetizer whites:

La Yunta 2006 Torrontes

(\$9): This grape originates in Argentina, yielding a dry white that is tasty, with tropical fruit notes and crisp acidity, and versatile, matching foods from white cheeses to spicy light meats. It's also a lesson in proper serving temperature: too cold, the wine seems just woody and stiff; served cool, though, the fruit emerges and plays nice with the grub.

Benton Lane 2006 Pinot Gris

(\$14): Our neighbors in Monroe have been on a roll lately, and this is easy to sip, slides down just fine with shellfish and other seafood. Just a touch of sweetness rounds out the flavors of ripe pears and quince: good gris.

Kungfu Girl 2006 Riesling, Washington State (\$12.50): Grayson at Sundance swore this silly name covered a "Mosel-like" Riesling, so we looked for bright apple-y flavors with a whiff of mineral notes, sweetness backed by zippy acids. Skeptics, we tested: day-um, lad knows his Rieslings. Be warned for the near future: Our crew plans to contribute our voices to the revival of this noble grape. Too many folks associate Riesling with schlocky-sweet, flabby wines — mainly because that's what was in the market, except for pricy beauties from Alsace and Germany. Well, some serious wine folks, like Harry Peterson-Nedry at Chehalem (Newberg), are turning that around. Let it begin; we'll all be a little happier.

We were just about to lash into the nosh when Mole rolled up in Dionysian drag: "Sleut! Look who I brung!" Behind him stood Bob Sogge, tall, slender, smiling, looking great as ever, the very guy who's had, as much as anyone, such an impact on wine in Eugene, now a prof of vineyard management in Chemeketa CC's winemaking program. We yakked, then I tapped the tipster in him. He whispered back, "Pfeiffer has fine viognier from Del Rio Vineyard grapes." (Tried to score it — couldn't get a more inside word than Sogge's — but will have to report later.)

Roast beast came out, with two wines: **Protocolo 2005** (\$7), simple but quaffable Spanish red, consistently good value, fine match for beast. **Lumos 2004 Pinot Noir Wren Vineyard** (\$23) was a find, from a fine year, nice price, flavors of dark berries with distinct spiciness, shines with food. Find it, grab it.

What a beautiful night, though begun with a terrible sight. What a way to launch an ominous year. We hope you and yours are safe and happy. I'll be OK if I can just rewind the film, delete some frames.

EW



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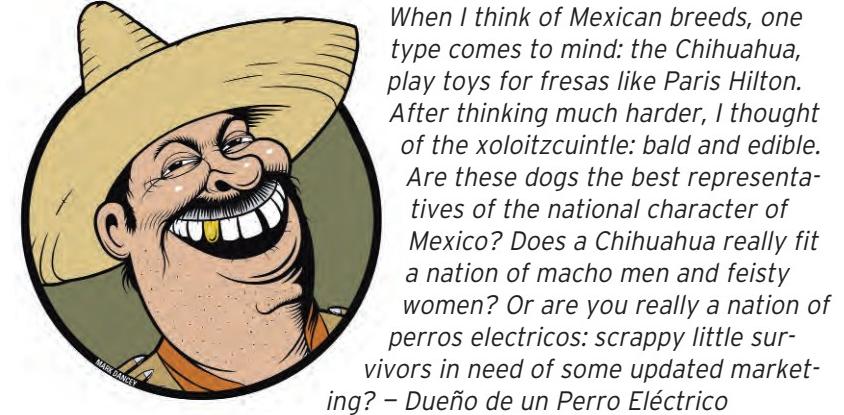
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iASK A MEXICAN!

BY GUSTAVO ARELLANO

As everyone knows, dogs seem to reflect their masters' personalities. Likewise, the breeds invented by a nation say a lot about that nation. Germans bred the German Shepard and Rottweilers: smart, loyal, faithful, yet a little cold and not the kind of dogs you want to piss off. The French created the poodle: all about style, yappy, not great fighters, yet not as dumb as they look. Canadians created the Labrador retriever: good hunters and friendly family dogs. Gringos seem to have adopted the pit bull as the national dog – both are reactive killers of children.



When I think of Mexican breeds, one type comes to mind: the Chihuahua, play toys for fresas like Paris Hilton. After thinking much harder, I thought of the xoloitzcuintle: bald and edible. Are these dogs the best representatives of the national character of Mexico? Does a Chihuahua really fit a nation of macho men and feisty women? Or are you really a nation of perros electricos: scrappy little survivors in need of some updated marketing? – Dueño de un Perro Eléctrico

Dear Owner of an Electric Dog. Tengo que take issue with your pit bull characterization. My chica caliente is the proud owner of one, and she's the kindest bitch around humans (dogs are another story). With that in mind, I'd argue that pit bulls are the quintessential American dog, as wabs, negritos and gabachos alike own them for the same reason the world respects and fears Americans — a Manichean innateness that loves and kills with equal ease. The difference in comportment for both is a reflection of the trainer, and the results show up quickly — just look at us after eight years of the Bush II administration.

Ahora, on to the Mexican dogs. Don't give up so easily, Dueño: Mexico's two indigenous breeds fully represent the Mexican soul. The American Kennel Club doesn't recognize the xoloitzcuintle (also known as the Mexican hairless) even though the noble critters date back millennia, much like Congress won't recognize illegal Mexicans despite their many years of working in the United States. Chihuahuas are even more quintessentially Mexican: Napoleonic in complex, clannish, usually brown but available in all colors, maligned by gabachos as puny runts but secretly ferocious and smart and bearers of muchos, muchos babies. Some PC pendejos might cringe at the comparison, but hey: better the anthropomorphic conversation deal with dogs than cockroaches, ¿qué no?

I'm a restaurant owner in Las Vegas. How come when a Mexican comes to apply for a job, he or she will bring several friends and sometimes their entire family? And when I ask them for their call back phone number, they get all paranoid and fumble through two or three phone numbers before they give the "right one." Dude, I'm not asking for their social security number! – Chef Viva Las Vegas

Dear Gabacho: Dude, the desert sun has cooked your brain into carne asada. Mexicans are bringing along friends and familia because they want you to give them a job. That's how so many Mexicans came here in the first place: gabachos hired Mexicans, who knew other Mexicans and urged their bosses to hire them, who knew others until one day, Americans needed to dial 1 for English. Trust those family-bringing Mexicans and make sure to put the smartest one in the head slot to whip his compas into shape. As for the carousel of phone numbers, the answer is any number of reasons: Maybe the Mexican in question is debating whether to give you a cell or home number. Perhaps they just moved into town and honestly can't remember their new número. But it's probably just that they're trying to remember which stolen identity they're using on that particular día.

Got a spicy question about Mexicans? Ask the Mexican at themexican@askamexican.net. Letters will be edited for clarity, cabrones. And include a hilarious pseudonym, por favor, or we'll make one up for you!

Gustavo Arellano is an investigative reporter on staff at the OC Weekly in Orange County, California. His "iAsk a Mexican!" column began in 2004 and today is syndicated in 32 publications nationwide. He is also the author of a book by the same name. An extensive interview with Arellano can be found in the EW archives online for Nov. 29, 2007.

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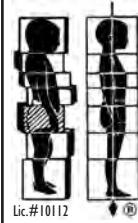
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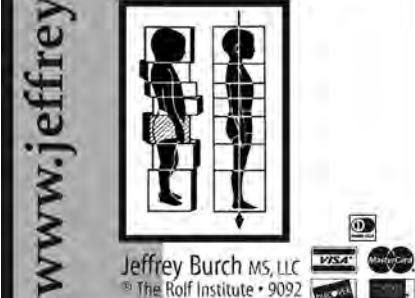
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			5		3 6
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3	9		1		
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			6	2	
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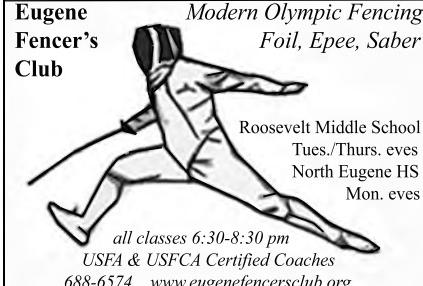
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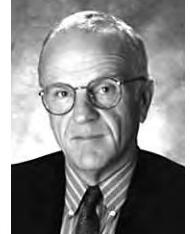


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This is Gabe; I saw your ad. Please write to blind box "Gabe". ☎

BEEFCAKE BRAUD

Pleased to say I've seen my soulmate. 5'4" 200lbs, knows how to handle her ham down at the PC deli. I'm ready to order my next lb of meat via your honey ham? ☎ 2497

RUBY

You were at the planet with a lady friend. Shy smiles were exchanged. I thought you were cute. Coffee sometime? ☎ 2494

BLACK FOREST 16TH

You commented on my green coat and I saw you smiling. I'm kicking myself for not making an introduction and offering to buy you a drink! Can I try again? ☎ 2533

LADY JENNIFER!

Mildy! Upon our acquaintance Thou gavest me a Hambo and a Contra, and t'were grand! Yet the twain sufficeth not! Pray, couldst, wouldest come again and grant thine humble servant yet another dance? L'homme a la fleur. ☎ 2416

free WILL ASTROLOGY

BY ROB BREZSNY

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Do you know what an expansion joint is? No, it's not slang for a marijuana cigarette you smoke in hopes of enlarging your worldview. Rather, it's an architectural term referring to the flexible sections that are built into a bridge or brick wall. These ensure that the structure can safely adjust as its construction materials expand and contract in response to changing weather and temperature. Since I expect that you will be building a new metaphorical edifice or renovating an existing one in 2008, I wanted to get you thinking about this. Expansion joints should be a key element in your plans. In fact, now is a perfect time to meditate on how to make them and where they will go.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The average person changes residences 11 times in the course of his or her life. Having lived in 33 different homes so far, I'm way above the norm. What about you, Taurus? I'm guessing that you will either make a major move in the coming year, or else you will find your true spiritual home. Here's a third possibility: You may penetrate more deeply into your existing abode, transforming it from a place of shelter to a sublime sanctuary – re-imagining it and reinventing it with an intensity that amazes you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): I'm guessing your heart will be smarter than usual in 2008. At the very least, love won't make you stupid, as it sometimes has in the past. Here's a suggestion to help ensure that your higher intelligence is always guiding your decisions about intimacy: Develop a habit of looking for the best in your intimate companions. I hope that in the coming months you will frequently utter declarations like the following: (1) "I love how you give me your full attention when we talk." (2) "I love how in touch you are with yourself." (3) "I love that you can make me laugh even when I'm mad." (4) "I love your impeccable sense of timing – how you call or show up at the right moment." (5) "I love how free you make me feel to tell the absolute truth." (These words of praise and more were lifted from the book *What I Love Most About You*.)

CANCER (June 21-July 22): In the fifth century B.C., the culturally rich city-state of Athens was a democracy, while militaristic Sparta was a dictatorship. But they put aside their differences and came together in a great collaboration to fight off the Persian invasion of Greece. I suspect you may make a similar move in 2008, Cancerian. A person or institution you have regarded as an adversary could become your ally. An influence from which you have always set yourself apart may help you pull off a feat of strength you couldn't have done otherwise.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): "It's now possible to fake everything," writes David M. Hopkins in his book *Counterfeiting Exposed*. He's not just referring to digitally altered photos of celebrities and singers who lip-

sync to pre-recorded vocals during their supposed live performances. He means everything in the world, from vintage wines to famous paintings to designer jeans. At least 5 percent of *all* products on the planet are phony. I bring this to your attention, Leo, because I'm putting you on high alert for frauds and cons and deceptions of every kind. You should be the top whistleblower of the zodiac in 2008, the chief bullshit-detector and constructive critic.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your main assignment in 2008 is to become highly skilled at feeling good. Does that sound like something you might want to do? If so, here's the beginning of a regimen you could follow: (1) Be constantly taking notes about what experiences give you delight and what situations make you feel at home in the world. (2) Always be scheming to provide yourself with those experiences and situations. (3) Take a vow that nothing will obstruct you from seeking out and creating pleasure, peace, love, wonder, and an intimate connection with life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "Too much aggression is dangerous," writes George R. Elder in his book *An Encyclopedia of Archetypal Symbolism*, "but, then, so is too little." One of your main assignments in 2008, Libra, draws on that wise counsel. Unfortunately, you don't have any good role models who can demonstrate how to gracefully express just the right amount of sinewy force. Everyone's either too pushy or too meek. You're going to have to figure out how to pull off this subtle yet momentous feat all by yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Dear Rob: Here are my New Year's resolutions. (1) I vow to Siamese-twin together my bad-ass, no-hype, wide-eyed self with my tricky, strategic, puzzle-loving self. (2) I vow to rage on like a dancing warrior in the urban wilderness, keeping peak experiences and total slaphappy victory at the top of my priority list, while at the same time I play hide-and-seek with the dark delicious secrets that fuel my soul's lust for wicked meaning. (3) I vow to deepen the collaborative efforts of my suck-out-the-marrow-and-spit-out-the-bones craziness and my listen-carefully-to-the-flow-of-the-underground-river caginess. – Double Intense Scorpio. Dear Double Intense: Scorpions everywhere will benefit from hearing your resolutions, which is why I've made them 2008's first horoscope.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In my dream, I was addressing a crowd of Sagittarians in a festively decorated hall. It was the first week of 2008. "You are not yet ready for the wonderful things you think you want," I told them. "To actually get them, you will have to change yourself in the coming months; you will have to shed some old conditioning that is interfering with your quest for success. Do you know what that old conditioning is? Find out NOW! Figure out how you need to transform yourself in order for the world to give you what you yearn for."

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Do you ever wonder if God loves Brad Pitt and Paris Hilton more than he loves you, as seemingly evidenced by those celebrities' charmed lives? Do you suspect that Tiger Woods' fame and Bill Gates' wealth mean that fate is friendlier to them than it is to you? If so, you're in for a major surprise, Capricorn. Events in 2008 will bring you big deliveries of the next best things to riches and fame. You'll get more proof than you've had in a long time that God and fate adore you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): As I began my hike around the lake, I asked the spirits for a vision that would serve as a symbol of your life in 2008. "Give me a sign," I said aloud, gazing to the heavens. Soon I came upon two rattlesnakes copulating on the path ahead of me. It was a beautiful ruckus. I stopped a few yards back to watch, reasoning that they were too preoccupied with each other to attack me. When they finally disengaged, I retreated. Just then I saw a very pregnant woman approaching me. She was walking alone with her head down, lost in thought. I called her attention to the snakes and convinced her that for the sake of our well-being, we should flee the scene. And that, Aquarius, was the sign I asked the spirits to send me about your life in 2008. What does it mean? That's for you to meditate on. Here's a hint: Appreciate and learn all you can from the beautiful ruckus you'll encounter, but preferably from a safe distance. And be protective of other people who may be more vulnerable or less alert than you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): "I must create a system, or be enslaved by another man's," wrote visionary poet William Blake. I suggest you write out that quote and keep it in plain sight throughout 2008. The coming months will be prime time for you to design a highly organized, richly disciplined approach to living the life you want to live, and doing it with such rigor and vigor that you will never again have to be controlled by or pay constant homage to someone else's life plan.

HOMEWORK: To check out my expanded audio forecast of your destiny in 2008, go to <http://RealAstrology.com>

Go to **RealAstrology.com**
to check out Rob Brezsny's
EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES
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MY MUSHROOM QUEEN
Where is my sweet hippie mama mushroom queen? I hope your compass leads you back to me someday. I'll be waiting. ☎ 2530

HERE'S TO YOU!
Andy, you are the light of my life. Loving you forever & always. Love Peanut.

ANOTHER DELICIOUS
Breakfast. SP, you amaze me beyond words. I'm the luckiest. You breathe life into my heart and love into my soul. I love you. ~Stranger



PLAYMATE WANTED
Seeking lady friend for hubby, he's tall handsome, kind and lots of fun...please no questions.. ☎ 2449

SICK OF PORTLAND
Liberal bicycling punk rocker seeks contacts and info about living in Eugene. I am very interested in moving there by summer 2009! Clue me in please... ☎ 2443



SEEKING MAN-DOG
Need man dog. Must be obedient and house trained. If bad will be spanked with the newspaper. Will feed and cuddle. ☎ 2529

CURVY IS BEST
Dom 40's male searching for BBW lady for SMBD exploration, fun, teasing to nurtured discipline. Safe sane play. ND, STD free and discreet. Do you want to be a good girl? ☎ 2496

TRYSTING, LADIES?
ISO 20-30 something attractive HWP woman for loving trysts. I'm lean, healthy, a wee bit of a handsome devil, actually. (No heavy drugs/alcohol or smoking please.) ☎ 2495

CAREGIVER?
Bi-BSMDSW seeking < 5'5" CPM submissive for hot GS action. Can meet at my house or your place. Caregiver?

SENSUAL EXCHANGE
SWM seeks sexy female for massage, hot tubs, oral fun. I'm 6', 165 lbs, very hung, very sensual, exchange fantasy or roll playing. Race unimportant 40-56 yrs. ☎ 2484

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Mistress E-Erotic 914-0394.

BI-MALE SEEKS FUN
Single professional male early 60s seeks bi-singles and/or couples for evenings/weekends of pleasure in a safe, clean environment. ☎ 2457

WELL HUNG
Wife stopped giving you head? Handsome attached man 40 ISO clean, fit, well hung, groomed married man who is interested in part time oral release. Remember well hung! ☎ 2448

DAPHNE'S DIRTY DAINTIES
Like use panties? Check out mine. Quality unwashed panties and thongs for your enjoyment. Special requests welcome. Pics are available. good4fun247@fastermail.com.

MADISON
Redheaded, BBW, 42DD, 200 lbs. Sensual Erotic Xtacy. Mon-Sat, 10am-10pm. Incall only. 988-0562.

FEMALE SEEKS BDSM

25 yr old female seeks BDSM partner. any gender, any sexuality. 23-35. experienced or not. emotional stability & respect a must. no intercourse. leave message w/ e-mail, zodiac sign. ☎ 2442

Savage Love

WORDS OF PURE WISDOM by Dan Savage



I'm 19, female, bisexual, and have been with the same guy for a year and things are great. I came home for Christmas and he went to his parents' house, and I'll see him in a few weeks. For Christmas, my mom got me some typical "mom" gifts—socks and underwear—but the panties had Disney princesses on them. I feel like a pedophile just owning them! I get it: She doesn't like the idea that I might be having sex, especially with the alarming rate that babies are popping out of teenage girls—but, come on.

Holiday Blues

Even if Mom was trying to send you a coded message—and I am not convinced that was her intent—you can turn the lemons of your mother's disapproval into the lemonade of a good, safe, responsible sex life. So Mom is not happy about her daughter being sexually active—that's too bad for Mom, right? Show Mom that her fears were misplaced by making sure you don't get your 19-year-old ass knocked up or knocked around.

As for feeling like a pedophile, HB, there's nothing pedo about a 19-year-old bi chick in Disney-princess underpants. A little girl in those panties is innocent and darling. A sexually active 19-year-old in those panties is ironic and daring. (A quick poll of straight men—or man, as the sample size was small)—also revealed that 100 percent consider 19-year-old bisexual girls in Disney panties "sexy as fucking hell.") So when your boyfriend eats your pussy through a pair of your new Disney underpants—when he filters your vaginal secretions through an image of Jasmine or Ariel or Belle—he will not only be helping you assert your right to sexual fulfillment despite your mother's disapproval, HB, but helping you deconstruct a patriarchal heteronormative discourse that reifies female purity and holds up female undergarments as moral status markers. And when he services your clit, HB, the boyfriend will also be servicing those princesses. His efforts will transform them into the fully sexual beings their corporate creators never intended them to be.

To think your boyfriend can accomplish all of that—and strike a blow against repressive monarchical systems, too—just by eating your pussy while you wear your new panties, HB! And all you have to do is lie back, pull the stick out of your ass, and enjoy.

I realize *Savage Love* is a sex-advice column (as evidenced by much vulgar language), but I'm going to ask anyway.

- (1) What is your definition of love?
- (2) How do you know if you're in "love"?
- (3) How do you know if they're the "one"?

Anonymous

(1) Love is making out with someone after you've blown a load on his/her face.

(2) You know you're in love when you're eating breakfast in a restaurant together the morning after he/she blew a load on your face and you suddenly realize that you didn't wash your face when you got out of bed that morning and you don't care.

(3) You know he/she is the one when he/she realizes that you've just realized that you're eating breakfast in a restaurant the morning after he/she blew a load on your face and you didn't wash your face when you got out of bed that morning and he/she smiles, leans over the table, and gives you a kiss.

I am a 27-year-old straight male. My girlfriend and I are getting serious, but one issue stands between us and a bright future. It is an issue that literally causes me to lose sleep and it is starting to become destructive to our relationship.

I have always been paranoid regarding the size of my penis. I know from research that, when erect, I am just slightly to the left of the bell-curve peak. I thought I had learned to accept this. My renewed feeling of insecurity stems from a comment my girlfriend made in an attempt to offer me some reassurance about the size of my genitalia. In an attempt to alleviate my worries, my girlfriend observed that it sometimes hurts when a penis is "really huge." She then let it slip that her ex-boyfriend of five years was famous in their high school due to "locker-room gossip." I remember from high school that the only boys who were the subject of locker-room gossip were the ones carrying around a third leg. Further buttressing my fears, my girlfriend confessed that the only time her ex-boyfriend's penis hurt her was after having three or more encounters in a single day. On a separate note, my girlfriend likes really hard sex. I have had sex with over 30 women in my life and I have never run into a girl who likes sex as hard as she does. The harder I bring it, the more she likes it. (Admittedly, I like this aspect.) Unfortunately, I fear that I am not satisfying her due to her having once been accustomed to being roughly used by a man with a very large penis.

I have more information that I believe contributes to my feeling that she wants a larger penis, but I would like to keep this reasonably short as I know you are a busy man. But my final thoughts are these: She says she is having the best sex of her life with me. I see two possible explanations for this assertion on her part: (1) She is telling the truth and really is having the best sex of her life with me; or (2) she is not satisfied and is lying to me and eventually our relationship will break down due to her lack of sexual satisfaction.

If you are still reading this, then you have my sincere appreciation. All I seek is your blunt, objective opinion, however harsh it may be.

Long Insecure Man Pensive

Oh my God, LIMP, shut up. Shut up, shut up, SHUT UP. I cut your letter by four-fifths and it's still fucking interminable. If you've managed to land a girlfriend who can put up with your florid rhetorical style—you don't by chance own a comic-book shop in Springfield, do you?—you should count your blessings and suck up the angst about the size of your dick.

I'm sorry, LIMP, but if your girlfriend's assurances about the quality of your sex life and her preference for average-size cock isn't enough to set you at ease, nothing I can say in this space is going to do the trick. I'm familiar with dudes like you—insecure bags of slop always harping away about the size of their dicks—and there's just no debuttressing your fears. Even if your girlfriend was a virgin when you met and yours was the only dick she'd ever laid thighs on, LIMP, you would still be paranoid. You would send me letters insisting that your girlfriend could never truly be satisfied with you, having never experienced the substantially more girthsome appendages of males lucky enough to be more impressively endowed blah blah blah.

Stop obsessing about your dick, LIMP. Just stop. Your dick is your dick and obsessing about size only makes you miserable. And verbose. If size were all that mattered, Ron Jeremy would be *People's "Sexiest Man Alive"* every fucking year instead of, you know, those mouse-dicked mothefuckers George Clooney and Matt Damon and Brad Pitt. If knowing your girlfriend used to be with a guy who had a huge dick—with him three or four times a day, for five long, pussy-punishing years—is more than your fragile ego can handle, do your girlfriend a favor and dump her now.

Download *Savage Lovecast* (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at www.thestranger.com/savage.
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